

Jordan awaiting U.S. approval of extradition treaty

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is awaiting American Congress approval of a draft extradition treaty between the Kingdom and the United States, Justice Minister Hisham Al Tal said Wednesday.

Mr. Tal said the draft was prepared during discussions between a team of Jordanian judges and senior American Justice Department officials in Washington in January.

"We are waiting for the U.S. side to notify us of the endorsement of the treaty by Congress and other related procedures under American law," Mr. Tal told the Jordan Times.

"As soon as we receive the notification, we will go ahead with our part of the procedures," he said. These would involve a Royal decree issued by His Majesty King Hussein endorsing the document and the publication of the treaty in the official gazette.

The treaty will take effect immediately after it is published in the official gazette, said Mr. Tal, a renowned lawyer.

The Associated Press quoted Adeb Jalamdeh, a state prosecutor who helped draw up the treaty, as saying the draft document does not cover political offences except "violence or crimes" against the leaders of the two countries and their families.

Mr. Jalamdeh said either government can refuse to hand over a suspect facing a death penalty in the other country, unless there were guarantees that he or she would not be executed.

The document will also have open-ended retroactive effect. Other details were not immediately available.

Mr. Tal also said that he expected the trial of Mohammad Abuequa, a Jordanian with American nationality who is accused of killing his wife in New Jersey in July 1994 in a dispute over child custody, to begin soon.

"Our prosecutor-general is now in the United States examining evidence and interviewing witnesses," said Mr. Tal. "We expect him back next week and the trial could begin in less than one month."

Khalil Darwish, the prosecutor-general, travelled to the U.S. two weeks ago after his trip was cleared by the concerned judicial authorities. Mr. Darwish is sounding out potential witnesses to come to Jordan and testify in court against Mr. Abuequa.

Mr. Abuequa is expected to be formally charged with one count of murder and two counts of kidnapping. The man would be tried in Jordan regardless of the extradition treaty, Minister Tal said.

The suspect has reportedly confessed to the prosecutors that he killed his wife in a dispute over the custody of their two children, a girl of six and a boy of three.

The killing took place on July 4, Mr. Abuequa reportedly hid the body of his wife under a bed in her New Jersey apartment and fled to Jordan with the children.

He was arrested by Jordanian authorities on July 20. He remains in detention.

The two children were handed over to their maternal aunt who travelled to Jordan in August after King Hussein personally intervened in the case.

The outcome of prosecutor Darwish's mission to the U.S. is seen as crucial to the success of the prosecution case against Mr. Abuequa since the case, apart from the suspect's reported confession, mainly rests on circumstantial evidence.

The U.S. had sought Mr. Abuequa's extradition although there was not an extradition treaty between Amman and Washington, but Jordan insisted that he should be tried by a Jordanian court.

It was in fact the Abuequa case that led Jordan and the U.S. to consider an extradition treaty.

Shimon Peres eyes U.N. secretary general's job

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres wants to cap a sparkling career as secretary general of the United Nations, a senior official said Wednesday.

"This has become his ambition," the official, who refused to be named, told AFP. "It fits him like a glove." One wants to talk about this so as to see his chances.

Robust 71-year-old has been sounding out world leaders and was pleased with the reaction from U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac.

"International lobbying is already under way, but everything depends on what happens with the peace process. If there is peace with Syria I can't see any obstacle."

"After the Middle East, Peres wants to make peace in the world," the official added.

But Peres would need support from the Arab World to take the top job in the forum which Israel has long seen as hostile to the Jewish state.

After sharing the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his role as a prime mover in the Palestinian autonomy agreement, Mr. Peres feels there is

little left for him at home. He complains that he has never received due recognition in Israel itself while enjoying a powerful international reputation.

Mr. Peres entered parliament in 1959 and has held a wide range of ministerial portfolios from finance to defence as well as being prime minister from 1984 to 1986.

But he acknowledges there is scant hope of succeeding Rabin after elections in 1996.

The term of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian, expires in 1997.



Shimon Peres

Cyprus conference seen to go beyond rhetorics on Palestinians

From Michael Jansen In Nicosia

CYPRUS FOREIGN Minister Alocos Michaelides said yesterday that the international seminar on "Europe and the Middle East: Interdependence and Partnership" convened here on March 7-8 and focusing on the Middle East peace process, had produced "concrete results" rather than "pronouncements" — concrete projects in health care, education and training for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, rather than empty promises.

He said also that following this seminar, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, which sponsored the meeting, would send a delegation to the European Union to report on the progress made.

Furthermore, "the North-South Centre had decided to expand its operations by establishing liaison offices in Nicosia and Tunis," the foreign minister stated.

Mr. Michaelides announced that Cyprus was also preparing its own "package" of projects for the occupied territories. Among these projects would be clinics, agricultural assistance programmes and tourism development schemes. He said he would be meeting shortly with the relevant Cyprus ministries to define this "package."

The Cyprus Chamber of Commerce is to hold a workshop here in June with the aim of discussing specific projects as well, and working out ways and means

of cooperating with businessmen from the occupied territories, Israel and the Arab hinterland. "This will take place out of the limelight," said Mr. Michaelides. The Cyprus government wanted to make the island a "bridge" between Europe and the Middle East, he said.

Jos Lemmers, the executive director of the centre, told the Jordan Times that some of the projects proposed would be initiated before the "Jericho conference" on peace and democracy the centre plans to hold, either in Jericho itself or Gaza, before the end of this year.

"We understand the urgency... the need to produce positive results" on the ground in the occupied territories in order to gain credibility with the Palestinians who have lost faith in a peace process which has failed to improve their lives.

Elisabeth Baarveld-Schlamann, rapporteur of the political affairs committee on the situation in the Middle East of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, stated that the aim of the "Jericho conference," which was first proposed in January 1994 at a Trans-Mediterranean conference held in Rome, would be to "discuss the democratic functioning of the Palestinian state" as well as to initiate development projects. The committee of ministers of the council was also considering "confidence building measures" to promote rapprochement between the Arabs and Israelis.

The seminar, which brought together about 40 European parliamentarians, officials of the Council of Europe, non-governmental organisations and personalities from the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel, marked a shift from declaratory to action policy by the centre and the council.

Hanna Siniara, chief editor of Jerusalem's Al Fajr newspaper and chairman of the European-Palestinian Chamber of Commerce, who has attended many such seminars, said that "over the past 10 years they were instrumental in preparing for the official dialogue" between the PLO and Israel which led to the Oslo accord.

"These seminars showed (to both sides) the parameters of what was possible... we were able to meet Israelis on neutral ground. At the beginning of each meeting we would argue but by the end we would exchange ideas."

During the various meetings of this seminar Eli Dayan, an Israeli member of parliament who has specialised in Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, repeatedly urged the Europeans to finance Palestinian economic and social development in order to make the peace process fruitful. He said that Europe could help the Palestinians "build the infrastructure of Gaza and Jericho and the West Bank... Until now the Americans have been more involved in the peace process, but now we think the Europeans should become more involved. It is in our interest."

Many other Israelis, however, still distrust Palestinians. Last fall, Mr. Abu Zaydeh parked his car at the Erez checkpoint between Gaza and Israel and took a taxi to a Tel Aviv interview because cars with Gaza plates cannot enter Israel.

Police blew it up for fear it might be rigged with explosives. Mr. Abu Zaydeh said he could even understand police fears, but was angry he was not offered compensation.

"It's a sign of contempt. If this had happened to an Israeli, they would have paid him," he said.

On the Israeli TV talk show "Popolitika" last week, Mr. Abu Zaydeh used the incident to lend perspective to a debate on a rash of thefts of Israeli cars smuggled into the Palestinian self-rule areas.

"My car was blown up," he said, grinning broadly. Dan Margalit, host of the show, said Mr. Abu Zaydeh's knowledge of Israel made him a valuable guest. "He knows Israeli society... when he makes a point, he refers to Israeli arguments and doesn't just give an official Palestinian position."

That knowledge did not come easy. Mr. Abu Zaydeh grew up in the Jabalya refugee camp, a shantytown of 70,000 and hub of resistance to Israeli occupation. He shared a two-room shack with his parents and eight siblings.

After graduating from high school in 1978, he studied at Beirut University. During a visit to Gaza, he was told by Israel's Shin Bet security service

vice he could either turn informant or be barred from returning to Beirut. Mr. Abu Zaydeh chose the latter and joined Mr. Arafat's Fatah guerrillas.

He was given command of a three-member armed squad and recruited others. In 1980, he shot and wounded a suspected Palestinian collaborator with Israel, was caught and in 1981 sentenced to 12 years.

In prison, he decided to teach himself Hebrew using a book for new Jewish immigrants to Israel. He conversed in Hebrew with his cellmate Samah Kanaan, son of a Jewish mother, and read Israeli newspapers and memoirs of Israeli leaders.

Mr. Abu Zaydeh soon became spokesman for the Palestinian security detainees, negotiating on their behalf with wardens.

"In prison, I broke the psychological barrier of talking with Israelis," he said. From behind bars, he followed the mass uprising against occupation and the peace process. He felt that while Mr. Arafat's autonomy deal gained Palestinians too little, "we had no other choice."

When he was released in April 1993, Mr. Arafat appointed him liaison with the Israelis.

Looking back on his own transformation, Mr. Abu Zaydeh said he now expected the Israelis to make more of an effort to change, too.

"The Israelis still relate to Palestinians as inferior to Jews and not deserving of the same things," he said.

Guerrilla-turned spokesman symbolises Palestinian hopes

By Karin Laub The Associated Press

GAZA CITY — Fresh out of high school, Suifan Abu Zaydeh commanded a Palestinian guerrilla squad, got caught and spent 12 years in Israeli prisons.

Today, as head of the "Israel Desk" in Yasser Arafat's autonomy government, he is a popular guest and tough sparring partner on Israeli news shows, explaining Palestinian thinking in fluent Hebrew peppered with slang.

"I always get across a clear message that despite all the stupid things that still happen between us, there is a chance for peace," said Mr. Abu Zaydeh, 35, interviewed in his office in the Palestinian government compound that until a year ago served as Israeli army headquarters in Gaza.

His bumpy journey from desperate guerrilla to advocate of coexistence offers a glimmer of hope that Palestinians and Israelis may yet find harmony despite the violence plaguing peace process.

After a January suicide bombing in which militants from Gaza killed 21 Israelis, Mr. Abu Zaydeh said he initially was ashamed to return to the Israeli college where he started taking courses this fall in political science and Israeli politics.

"I felt something in me was broken, and that perhaps we couldn't sit together," said Mr. Abu Zaydeh, natty in a gray blazer and matching shirt. "But many students said, 'Suifan, don't do this, we want you here.'"

After graduating from high school in 1978, he studied at Beirut University. During a visit to Gaza, he was told by Israel's Shin Bet security service

7 Palestinian self-rule institutions in Jerusalem — report

Occupied Jerusalem (AFP) — Seven institutions linked to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) are operating in East Jerusalem in violation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accords, the Israeli Organisation for Peace Watch charged Tuesday.

Seven institutions in Jerusalem are connected beyond any doubt to the Palestinian Authority and an additional group which monitors the Israeli-PLO self-rule accords. This constitutes a violation of the 1993 declaration of principles on autonomy and the May 1994 Cairo accord which launched Palestinian self-rule, the group said in a report.

Both Israel-PLO accords established that self-rule offices could only be sited in the autonomous Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, it said.

Faisal Hussein, the top PLO official in East Jerusalem, denied the report's allegations. He told Israeli Television that "no Palestinian institution linked to the Palestinian Authority is operating in Jerusalem."

The seven institutions named by Peace Watch as directly linked to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority are: the Religious Affairs Ministry, energy centre, bureau of statistics, the office of the mufti of Jerusalem, the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation and Orient House.

The two others whose connection with autonomy is not clear are the Palestinian health and housing councils, the report said.

The Palestinian Authority's violations of the self-rule accords are "intensive" as more and more institutions are set up in East Jerusalem, the report said.

However, it said, the authority's diplomatic activity at Orient House, the PLO's headquarters, had been greatly reduced in recent months.

The Israeli parliament adopted a law banning PLO activities in Jerusalem last December.

Bombers on parade

Gaza police paraded two would-be suicide bombers before the press on Wednesday and accused Islamic Jihad hardliners of brainwashing them. "These two young men have been subjected to brainwashing sessions to become suicide bombers," said Colonel Mohammad Al Masri of the Palestinian intelligence service.

Sixteen-year-old schoolboy Ayman Abdul Karim Mohammad and Naim Hassan Al Dardassawi, 19, who works in an ice-cream shop, were arrested last week.

Ayman's father told the press conference he had seen his son climb into an empty grave as part of his training to get used to the idea of death.

"A sheikh gave them lessons on Islam and martyrdom and told them the gates of paradise were wide open to them," Masri said. "They were not assigned a specific mission but are potential suicide bombers."

Iran tests key railway network

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran conducted a test run Tuesday of a key rail network that links the Central Asian republics in the north of international waters through its southern Gulf ports. Tehran Radio reported. The project fulfills a major Iranian ambition to emerge as the gateway to the Central Asian republics, which are rich in resources and considered important future markets for Western goods. The republics — Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan — have limited or no access to international waters. Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, said the railway connects northern Iran to the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas with a network running through the city of Baq in central Yazd province. The state-run radio said the project, which took 10 years to complete, was of "immense national and strategic importance." The present network has the capacity to carry 15 million tonnes of goods per year, but is designed for easy expansion, the radio said. The railway is due for official completion April 1.

Balkans dominate Romanian-Turkish talks

SNAGOV (AP) — The prospect of a broader war in former Yugoslavia dominated talks Tuesday between the presidents of Romania and Turkey who insisted they would work for peace in the fragile Balkans. Romanian President Ion Iliescu said "urgent intervention of international factors" was necessary to prevent possible renewed conflict in Croatia and a flareup of fighting in Bosnia where a ceasefire there expires May 1. Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said Balkan nations must work together for peace in the region, cognizant of the "sensibilities that exist in the Balkans." Turkey and Romania "are ready to do all in their power for there not to be bloodshed," he added, after talks with Mr. Iliescu at the lakeside resort of Snagov, 40 kilometres north of the capital Bucharest. Mr. Iliescu reiterated Romania's support for the lifting of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, the only republics remaining in Yugoslavia.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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18:30 Riyadh (SV)
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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Les Raisons Lavours
17:30 Maria Des Eaux Vives
18:00 News in French
18:30 Road To Avonlea
19:00 Planete En Equation
20:30 E.N.G.
21:15 The Blue Revolution
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Problem Child"
23:59 The Eagle

PRAYER TIMES

04:31 Fair (Sunrise) Doha
05:51 Dhur
15:07 Asr
17:42 Maghreb
18:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 624590.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 624785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Association Tel. 624590.
De la Salle Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Association Tel. 624590.
Church of the Association Tel. 624590.
Church of the Association Tel. 624590.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 852536.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Sunny weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds north-westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 6/20

Agaba 13/26

Deserts 4/21

Jordan Valley 10/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19 Agaba 26 Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Agaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Bassam Karadash... 790200
Dr. Salim Al Daboubi... 776751
Dr. Bahjat Badr... 849362
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh... 827195
Firas pharmacy... 783636
Ferdows pharmacy... 623672
Al Asoma pharmacy... 623670
Nairouh pharmacy... 649495
Yacoub pharmacy... 623672
Shmiesani pharmacy... 623672
Nairouh pharmacy... 623672
Najib pharmacy... 847632

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Yacoub pharmacy... 623672

Shmiesani pharmacy... 623672

Nairouh pharmacy... 623672

Najib pharmacy... 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre... 637111

Civil Defence Department... 661111

Civil Defence Emergency... 630341

Rescue... 617101

Fire Brigade... 775121

Blood Bank... 843402

Highway Police... 896390

Traffic Police... 630721

Public Security Department... 603800

Price Complaints... 661176

Water and Sewerage... 897467

Complaints... 787111

Complaints... 787111

Telephone Information... 121

Overseas Calls... 010230

Central Amman Telephone... 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs... 773111

Police hold suspect in connection with rape, murder of Zarqa girl

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Police Wednesday announced the arrest of a 50-year-old man suspected of the rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl from Zarqa camp.

Colonel Adnan Abdullah, director of the Zarqa police, said that the suspect, identified as A.S., has confessed to raping and killing Samar G. in Zarqa. Samar's body was found dumped near a pile of stones on Feb. 24 by a shepherd in the Tabarbour area two days after she was killed, according to police reports.

The child, was reported missing on Feb. 22 after she was last seen riding in a blue car. Col. Abdullah, however, would not reveal any further details about the case "until we complete our procedures." "All I can say is that we are still questioning the suspect and I can't give further details," Col. Abdullah said, adding that an article published Wednesday in Arabic daily regarding the murder was inaccurate.

"We at the police department regret what Al Ra'i published concerning the crime because it is all false information," the police official told reporters who gathered at Zarqa police station for a press conference.

Col. Abdullah told the reporters that the press conference would be postponed until Saturday, when the authorities expect to complete their investigations.

"This case concerns the whole society, and all newspapers have the right to publish the same information," the colonel added. Meanwhile, Tafleeh police Wednesday continued their search for a 5-year-old child who has been reported missing since March 6, officials said.

Hazem A.P. left his home on March 6 and did not return, a police official told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The official said that police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) rescue teams have expanded their search near the mountain area along Tafleeh.

"We have combed the area, but so far we were unable to find any trace of the missing child," the police official said.

He added that the authorities have high hopes of locating the child.

Bus accident injures 14

Also on Wednesday, 14 people were injured in a road accident on the Irbid Samar road, according to police and CDD reports.

The accident, which occurred near Muthalath Hibras early Wednesday morning, involved a public transportation bus and a parked car.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the accident occurred because the bus driver was speeding.

He said that the bus driver was in the right lane and tried to bypass a parked car, but "lost control of his vehicle and rolled over."

The 14 injured, ranging in age from 24 to 60, were rushed to Princess Basma Hospital and Yarmouk Health Centre suffering from fractures and bruises. They were all listed in good to fair condition.

UNRWA staff stage strike at headquarters

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) area staff members Wednesday staged a strike in an appeal to donor countries to continue their financial support so that UNRWA services may be sustained.

UNRWA employees are concerned that severe cuts in educational, health and relief services may be implemented if donations do not meet the agency's required budget. In turn this would lead to redundancies.

Additionally, the representatives fear that UNRWA may cease to exist before a solution to the Palestine refugee question has been achieved. "We need to inform donor countries about the situation," said one agency employee, "how can UNRWA stop its services when we as Palestinians are facing so many difficulties."

The strike staged outside UNRWA headquarters in Shmeisani lasted three hours. Strikers said that representatives of a women's union and six political parties had visited the sit-in site to express their support.

About 30 people gathered in front of the agency's headquarters, but numbers had apparently fluctuated throughout the morning. UNRWA employees in the relief, health and educational sectors pledged their support by striking for an hour between nine and 10 a.m.

Banners posted read: "No termination or reduction of UNRWA's services," and "We are with resolution 194," referring to U.N.

Security Council resolution 194 which stipulates the right of return of refugees to their homeland or to receive compensation according to individual choice.

Fears of cuts have arisen from the leaking of a document which listed possible cuts or amendments to be made in the event that donations fell short of this year's proposed budget.

In a recent interview with Director of UNRWA Affairs Ele Saaf, Mr. Saaf said that the document was part of a contingency plan carried out every year in case donations were less than expected expenditure on existing activities.

Last year UNRWA received about \$68 million from donors to finance the existing activities plus a further \$8 million for the Peace Implementation Programme (PIP), said Mr. Saaf.

PIP was initiated in October 1993 following the signing of the Declaration of Principles by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel the previous month.

PIP is part of the general programme of the United Nations to support the peace process economically and socially, and is specifically aimed at Gaza and the West Bank.

The strike took place on the first day of the major donors meeting here, which is chaired by UNRWA's Secretary General Ilter Turkmen.

Representatives from the agency's host countries, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in addition to representatives of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) are also attending the conference.



United Nations Relief and Works Agency staff members Wednesday stage a strike outside the agency's headquarters in Amman (Photo by Hatim Ali)

relevant U.N. resolutions, in particular resolution 194," it concluded.

Vienna-based UNRWA spokesman Sandro Tucci said he viewed the strike as action taken to reaffirm the agency's dedication to serve the needs of Palestine refugees.

"It (the strike) is a way of expressing hope that UNRWA will continue to exist doing work for Palestine refugees," said Mr. Tucci in a telephone interview.

He explained that in the last two years the agency accrued "some budget deficit," but managed to prevent cuts to services by adopting stricter budgeting.

Mr. Tucci added, however, "If we do not receive adequate funding this year, we will have to enforce considerable reduction to services."

If sufficient funding is made available to the agency, plus a little extra he said, they would be able to "pull through, but other than that we are already bone dry."

Mr. Tucci explained that UNRWA had already received some pledges from some donor countries, while others had made pledges in part, and others still had not yet made their pledges at all.

"We always fear there will be a decrease in generosity, and so we are trying to make (donors) aware of the fact that our only recourse would be to cut services."

Mr. Tucci added that for the time being no such cuts have come into effect.

Among striking UNRWA representatives there was a large loss of agency money that had been banked with Barings Bank which recently was forced to liquidate.

However, this is not the case, asserted Mr. Saaf. "Money for the provident fund (pension fund) is invested in portfolios and not in the bank (Barings)," he said. "This retirement fund has not incurred any losses" as a result of the collapse of the international bank.

Jordan, PNA discuss facilitating travel across Jordan River bridges

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Palestinian officials Wednesday met here to discuss ways to further facilitate the transportation of travellers across the Jordan River bridges and the crossing points.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said after the meeting that the discussions were held in a brotherly atmosphere and took place in accordance with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein for the purpose of bolstering relations between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

The discussions were comprehensive and covered topics that were not discussed in any earlier Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, according to Mr. Hammad.

He said Jordan is determined to maintain the highest possible level of cooperation with the PNA and with the Palestinian people, with whom Jordan maintains very strong brotherly ties which must be further strengthened by all possible means.

Nabil Shaath, head of the Palestinian team, said after the meeting that the two sides discussed means to bolster all aspects of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the implementation of Jordanian-Palestinian agreements.

Dr. Shaath said that the two sides focused attention on ways to ensure the success of joint Jordanian-Palestinian plans that would safeguard the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

Referring to Tuesday's Arab-Israeli foreign ministers meeting, Dr. Shaath said that the discussions opened the door for the return of the displaced Palestinians, but there is a long way to go, and patience and perseverance are required to achieve the ultimate goal.

Taking part in the talks were Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Transport Minister Samir Kassar and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Huneidi, in addition to Mr. Hammad.

The Palestinian sides included several senior PNA officials in addition to Dr. Shaath.

Ministry, UNICEF to start polio immunisation campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), are currently preparing for the national polio immunisation campaign due to start on March 18, a UNICEF statement said.

The campaign will cover all children aged 0-5 years, throughout the Kingdom.

The campaign, which is in accordance with WHO and UNICEF's recommendations for a polio-free Jordan, aims to attain a national immunisation coverage rate above 90 per cent and contribute towards achieving global polio eradication by the year 2000, according to UNICEF.

The polio vaccine will be offered at all Ministry of Health centres, mother and

child centres and hospitals, as well as the Royal Medical Services, Jordan University Hospital and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) medical services.

As for remote areas not accessible to these centres, they will be serviced by mobile ministry immunisation teams.

The vaccine will be available free-of-charge to all children residing in Jordan, irrespective of nationality, medical insurance or immunisation status.

During the campaign, each child under five years of age, will be given the two doses of the polio vaccine, each in the form of two oral drops.

The two doses will be administered four weeks apart; the first dose during the week of March 18-23, and the second one during the

week starting April 22.

The success of this campaign, according to UNICEF, resides in the cooperation of families, who are requested to bring their children forward for immunisation, and thus participate towards realising the health goal of making Jordan a polio-free country.

According to the State of the World Children 1995, published recently by UNICEF, 95 per cent of one-year-old Jordanian children have been immunised against polio during the period spanning 1990-1993.

Furthermore, the Progress of the Nations report — another UNICEF publication — indicated that the world is well-on-track towards eradicating polio by the end of this century.

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Marking International Women's Day, Jordanian women's organisations and the Ministry of Culture yesterday held a series of events in Amman and other cities in the Kingdom addressing women's concerns and honouring their achievements.

But events seemed to escape the notice of large sectors of Jordan's female population. Activities began Tuesday with the first in a series of five lectures organised by the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) on subjects ranging from women's human rights, plans for a Jordanian secretaries' union to women's health care.

Also on Tuesday, the National Committee of Women (NCW) held a seminar on "women and decision making" at the British Council.

On Wednesday, the NCW in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture opened a two-day exhibition of paintings by Arab women artists and books by Arab women authors at the Royal Cultural Centre. This exhibition will travel to all major cities in the country.

The highlight of the opening ceremony was a piano concert given by Jordanian pianists Rula Camran Nabeel and Tala Farouk Tutunji.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) marked the day by awarding its annual prize to the best worker in the NHF's Women in Development Programme, which was launched in 1986 and covers a variety of income-generating schemes based on the concept of self-employment and home production.

This year's prize was given to Bayan Jabbar, an employee at the Garment Production Unit set up by the Women in

Development Programme, in appreciation for her accomplishments in the factory and the financial support she has been able to give to her family as a result of her work.

According to the president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, Halifa Abu Ghazaleh, the federation is postponing the two activities it had chosen to mark International Women's Day to later this month, awaiting the return of Her Majesty Queen Noor, honorary president of the federation, from the United Nations World Conference on Social Development in Copenhagen.

The federation's activities will consist of a ceremony in Amman for about 200 women who shared in the works of the Jordan Environmental Society, and a seminar on the social and psychological effects on women and children of the prolonged absence of the male head of the household, seeking employment outside Jordan.

But Dr. Abu Ghazaleh pointed out that by taking part in a recent meeting in New York of the planning committee for the Beijing World Conference on Women, members of the federation were making their contribution this month to women's global activities.

But these efforts and events seem to reach only a relatively small number of Jordanian women: although 100 people attended the opening session of the exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, the exhibition itself was conspicuous for the absence of visitors in the afternoon.

According to one of the organisers, a large number of students attending a conference in another part of the building visited the exhibition and showed great interest in it, but "they dropped in by chance because they were in the same place."

Lectures Tuesday and Wednesday drew average audiences of no more than 20 to 40 women.

And interviews with a random sample of female students at the University of Jordan revealed that at least half of the women were not aware of the existence of International Women's Day in the first place. Others had learned about it through the media, but had not heard about any activities marking the day, neither at the university nor elsewhere in Amman.

While some women said that they would like to celebrate the day, but were lost for ideas of how to do so, the majority felt that there was a lack of interest in the day and its significance, rendering celebrations superfluous.

Asked whether publicising the day might raise general interest in women's issues in Jordan, a group of women studying business administration replied that a general awareness of the problems of Jordanian women existed, but that women's day would do nothing to change them.

The idea of an international women's day first arose at the turn of the century. Since those early days, the day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike.

It has become the rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political process.

Increasingly, Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.



The Embassy of Italy Announces

The starting of Italian classes, all levels, on 11/3/1995 or 12/3/1995 for a period of two and a half months.

- Classes will be:

* SATURDAY, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY

* SUNDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY

- From four to six or six to eight p.m.

- Fees are 73 J.Ds.

Registration at the Italian Language Center Shmeisani/ near Birds' Garden / Tel: 669348

GRATITUDE

The family of the late
Haj Tewfik Tabba'a

wish to express their deepest gratitude to

Her Royal Highness Princess Muna

for presenting her condolences at the family residence.

WHAT'S GOING ON FILMS

* Film entitled "Requiem For Un Campesino Español" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

* Film entitled "Rebel Without a Cause" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

* Exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Qassab Bashi at Darat Al Funun. Also showing a permanent exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.

* Exhibition of art by Consuelo Gonzalez at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

* Exhibition of women's abstract artists entitled "The World Through the Eyes of Women" at Baladna Art Gallery.

* "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Centre.

DIALOGUE

* Dialogue with Syrian artist Marwan Qassab Bashi at Darat Al Funun on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Health ministry to offer dental care in remote areas

AMMAN (Petra) — In its drive to offer dental care services to all urban and rural regions of the Kingdom, the Ministry of Health plans to establish dental clinics in villages and remote districts, according to Health Minister Aref Batayneh. Addressing the opening of a two-day seminar on dentistry, Dr. Batayneh said this ministry has cooperated with the Ministry of Education to introduce dental care services in government schools and is now seeking to offer such services to private schools in cooperation with education departments. Noting that dental services have been significantly developed over the years, Dr. Batayneh said the number of dental clinics run by the Health Ministry has reached 160, up from only two in 1966.

Today and tomorrow
March 9-10, 1995 come and visit

the art and paintings and art works at Philadelphia Hotel

with the participation of more than 30 artists and 350 art works open from 11 a.m. till 11 p.m.

2 U.S. employees killed in Karachi ambush

KARACHI (R) — Two U.S. government workers were killed and one was wounded Wednesday morning when attackers sprayed their van with bullets as they headed to work at the U.S. consulate in this troubled port city.

The three Americans and their Pakistani driver were stopped at a traffic light on one of the city's busiest roads when two gunmen emerged from a yellow taxi and opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles at about 7:45 a.m. (0245 GMT), police said.

The assailants shot out the front and back windshields of the van, killing Jackie Van Landingham, a secretary, and Gary C. Durrell, a communications technician. Mark McCloy, who worked in the consulate's post office, was injured and was in stable condition, according to U.S. officials. The driver was not hit and took the Americans to the Agha Khan Hospital.

"The identity, affiliations and motives of the gunmen are not known at this time," the U.S. embassy in Islamabad said in a brief statement.

The U.S. consulate in downtown Karachi was immediately closed to the public after the shooting, which took place about two miles (three kilometres) away at a busy intersection on Shar-E-Sasim Road.

The American flag flew at half-mast and a large contingent of heavily armed Pakistani police stood guard outside the fortified U.S. compound. Americans who work at the consulate were advised to stay inside their homes for safety.

"An intensive search has been ordered," said Pakistan's Information Secretary Hussein Haqqani. "The government will spare no effort to find and arrest those responsible."

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad and consulates in Karachi and other cities have tightened security since last month's arrest and extradition to the United States of Ramzi Yousef, a suspect in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Some Pakistanis opposed the extradition of Yousef, an Iraqi. He was arrested at a small guest house in Islamabad and immediately put on a plane to New York.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government is pro-American and she is planning an official visit to Washington next month where she will meet U.S. President Bill Clinton. Also, first lady Hillary Clinton is scheduled to visit Pakistan for two days at the end of this month.

However, a number of militant political and religious groups espouse anti-American rhetoric and have accused the United States of involvement in the worsening violence that has convulsed Karachi, leaving more than 1,000 dead since the beginning of 1994.

Tehrik-e-Jafira Pakistan, a hardline Shi'ite Muslim group, claims the Americans are behind the recent spate of mosque attacks in Karachi. The group has provided no evidence.

U.S. Ambassador John Monjo held talks Wednesday afternoon at the consulate with Abdullahi Shah, the chief minister of Sind province, which includes Karachi.

"This is a serious terrorist action that was meant to sabotage the prime minister's visit to America next month," Mr. Shah told the Associated Press after meeting with Mr. Monjo. "There are people who do not want an improvement in Pakistan's relations with the United States."

Asked to elaborate, he noted that Pakistan has extradited suspected drug traffickers to the United States and is planning to send several more. Pakistan's drug barons are considered extremely powerful and well-armed.

Wednesday's shooting was not the first time Americans have been targeted for attack in Pakistan, an overwhelmingly Muslim nation of 130 million people.

Pakistani protesters in 1989 stoned the American Centre, a library and resource centre in Islamabad, to protest the controversial novel, the Satanic Verses, by author Salman Rushdie. Pakistani police were called in and shot dead six demonstrators.

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad was badly burned in an attack by activists in 1979 and had to be rebuilt. Two Americans and two Pakistanis were killed.

A spokesman of the U.S. embassy said there was a general advisory on security in Karachi for Americans.

"We have stopped Americans from travelling in dangerous areas," a consulate official said.

Witnesses said a number of U.S. consulate cars entered and left the mission from the back door, heavily guarded by police and private armed guards.

"The gunmen travelling in a car overtook the U.S. consulate-general's van before a traffic signal near nursery area and sprayed bullets from the left side, right side and from the front side," a police official said.

"The bullet-riddled van has at the moment been parked at the hospital," the official said.

At least five bullets penetrated the left side and four the right side of the van, the police said. "All the side window panes were smashed."

The front was hit by nine bullets but its windshield was intact, the police said.

There was a lot of blood inside the van, which took at least 20 minutes to reach the hospital from the attack site, the police said.

"We are deeply saddened and concerned by this act of violence that has taken place in Karachi," Mrs. Bhutto told reporters in Singapore, where she was visiting to encourage more foreign investment in her country.



Pakistani paramilitary troops guard the U.S. consulate in Karachi after two American diplomats were shot dead and another injured by unidentified gunmen Wednesday. The two men were killed in eastern Karachi as they were driving along the airport highway and heading for the consulate (AFP photo)

"This year for the first time the U.N. Human Rights Commission has made clear that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights cannot be defeated by procedural manoeuvring and that no country, however large, can avoid scrutiny of its human rights record," Mr. Shattuck told Reuters.

But Mr. Shattuck, who led the U.S. lobbying effort after the European Union tabled the draft resolution, was less pleased by Russia's decision to vote against it. Russia had voted against the Chinese procedural motion Tuesday.

Although four other countries also changed their votes, the Russian decision effectively swung the vote Beijing's way.

"We are very disappointed with Russia's vote on the resolution," Mr. Shattuck said. "It seemed inconsistent with its vote, which we welcomed — on bringing the resolution before the Commission."

The Commission, the U.N.'s highest human rights forum, has no real power to deter serious and consistent violators of human rights. In less contested votes later Wednesday, it issued strong condemnations of abuses in

China avoids first U.N. censure on human rights

GENEVA (R) — China foiled a Western attempt to censure its human rights record Wednesday for the fifth successive year, narrowly defeating a critical resolution at the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

After vigorous behind-the-scenes lobbying by both sides, the 53-member commission voted 21 to 20 with 12 abstentions against a European draft resolution backed by the United States.

China's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Yong-Yan Jin, said before the vote that the draft text was "entirely a product of political confrontation practised by the West with ulterior motives."

But John Shattuck, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for humanitarian affairs, welcomed the fact that the resolution had been put to a vote and China had not managed to quash it with a procedural motion as it had done every year since 1991.

China introduced such a motion Tuesday night but was defeated, also by one vote.

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Swarms of crows attack animals

POTSDAM, Germany (AFP) — Swarms of crows have been attacking farm animals near here with a savage fury that has appalled residents and brought to mind the most frightening scenes from Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Birds*. "It's terrible," said Norbert Droese, a farmer of Kleinberg, west of Berlin, who lost another cow to the crows in February. "For weeks they live with the herd and then all of a sudden they pounce on the animals." No one in the Brandenburg region, with its fields, tree-lined country roads and peaceful villages, has ever seen anything like it. The crows gather in groups of several dozen and swoop down on isolated animals. "The animals don't have a chance," according to Droese. "The birds usually go after defenceless beasts — calves or cows that have just given birth. They claw at their eyes and then tear them apart, right down to the spinal column. The attacks usually happen on cloudy or foggy mornings." In the last year farmers in the region have lost around 40 calves and four cows. Even when the animals survive the onslaught, they are often so mangled they have to be put down. This winter there has been less snow and fewer attacks, as the crows can apparently find other sources of food. But the regional environment office here is now reporting swarms of killer crows elsewhere in Germany, notably in the Schleswig-Holstein region in the north.

Seat belts save 73,000 U.S. lives in past decade

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seventy-three thousand lives have been saved in the past decade by seat belts, child restraints, motorcycle helmet laws, a coalition of U.S. insurers, consumers and health groups said Tuesday. But despite the reduced carnage on America's highways and progress against disease and accidents, almost one million Americans still die each year from preventable causes, said the coalition for consumer health.

Chinese termites attack modern buildings

BEIJING (R) — Concrete-crunching termites cause more than 40 million yuan (\$4.7 million) in damage every year to modern buildings in Chengdu, capital of China's western Sichuan province, the China Daily said Wednesday. The tiny white insects, previously thought only to be a threat to wooden buildings, have adapted to modern city life and can bore through reinforced concrete and damage items made of copper, iron and aluminium, the newspaper quoted experts as saying. A telecommunications building and an exhibition hall in the provincial capital are among buildings seriously damaged by termites, which cause economic losses of more than 40 million yuan (\$4.7 million) a year, it said.

No free lunch for China's police

BEIJING (R) — The Ministry of Public Security has ordered China's police not to accept invitations to dine with people who could be seeking to influence them, the China News Service said Tuesday. The announcement came two days after Premier Li Peng told parliament the problem of corruption was a "matter of life and death" for China. Police should refuse banquet invitations from people involved in criminal or security cases or in many other kinds of police business, including household registration, driving licences, safety inspections and applications to travel abroad, the agency said. Other departments mentioned were computer security and traffic administration. Police at all levels who persist in dining with such people will be criticised or disciplined according to the seriousness of their offences, it said. Leaders who approved such activities would be held responsible, it said. Many Chinese say winning and dining officials, including police, is an effective way of getting something done. China's law enforcers have come under increased scrutiny since Reform

Zhirinovsky vows to back India against Pakistan

NEW DELHI (R) — Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, ending a trip to India with characteristic bluntness, said Wednesday that if he came to power, Moscow would back India in any war with Pakistan.

In a new barrage of controversial statements during a trip to India, Mr. Zhirinovsky predicted the Central Asian republics would reunite with Russia, helping realise his goal of establishing a common border with India.

The leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, speaking at a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to New Delhi, stood by a statement he made Monday when he said he wanted Bangladesh and Pakistan to be folded back into India.

Russia's ambassador to Bangladesh apologised for the remark, which drew a strong protest from Dhaka. Mr. Zhirinovsky said the ambassador should be withdrawn for anti-Russian views.

He also restated his view that Afghanistan and Pakistan should turn over a narrow corridor of territory to Russia, helping it create a direct land link with India.

Iran's embassy in Delhi criticised his suggestion last week that Russia might take land from Iran to compensate Afghanistan for the corridor, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said.

Mr. Zhirinovsky made clear his renewed call for a redrawing of national boundaries through much of Central and South Asia was aimed at strengthening Russia and India, with which he said Moscow had always had

Colombo slams rebels over French mediation

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka rejected Wednesday Tamil Tiger guerrilla claims that a French nominee was unacceptable as an intermediary to end the ethnic war because he was biased in favour of President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) vetoed the initiative to involve the French and Wednesday charged that the retired diplomat named by France, identified only as "Michelle," was a close friend of the president and therefore controversial.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar dismissed the allegations and regretted that the Tigers were rejecting the good offices of France to resolve the country's conflict which has claimed more than 30,000 lives since 1972.

"There is absolutely no truth in that. He is a nominee of the French government. He is not somebody we picked off the street just like that. The president did not know the man until he came here," Mr. Kadirgamar said.

He said the government asked for the "good offices" of France "because they have a long standing relationship with us and also a lot of experience in this type of thing."

Mr. Kadirgamar said the government felt that they should seek foreign mediation because three months of talks with the LTTE had made no progress towards opening a dialogue on political issues to end the war.

However, he said he was still "cautiously optimistic" about taking forward the peace effort currently deadlocked without any discussion on political issues.

But in a two-page statement from its London office the LTTE said they were not opposed to foreign mediation as a last resort, but were opposed to the retired diplomat.

"He was a close friend of the president and his selection as a mediator was controversial."

NATO's foe in exercise sounds like new friend Russia

OSLO, Norway (AP) — The cold war is over. NATO is now working on ways to link Russia into its "Partnership for Peace" programme.

So what are roughly 22,000 troops, 130 warships and 350 warplanes from NATO doing in Norway to practise defending its vast oil fields from what sounds like Russia?

"No, no, no. It could be any country, anywhere," said Brynulf Freeberg, a spokesman for "Strong Resolve," the biggest exercise by the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989.

"It's just that Norway has good winter conditions, shallow waters and challenging topography for pilots," he said.

And with the breakup of the former Soviet Union, Norway also happens to be the only NATO country that

But in the Arctic, where NATO and Russia meet, it doesn't take much imagination to detect reminders of the cold war.

In January, Russia's military mistook a harmless weather rocket launched from Andoya, an Arctic island off north Norway, for a hostile military missile.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin claimed that, for the first time ever, he opened a black box of nuclear missile launch codes so he could be ready to retaliate.

Norway was stunned by the reaction — a reminder that this country of 4.3 million people still has a potent military power on its doorstep, even after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Just across Norway's 196-kilometre (120-mile) Arctic frontier is Russia's Kola Peninsula, with one of the

ering, Norway and Russia have failed to settle their border in the Barents Sea, with both claiming a vast area that is rich in fish and possibly oil.

The Norwegians — fearing isolation because they rejected European Union membership last autumn — are delighted that NATO wants to hold exercises on Norway's land and sea.

"What's reassuring is that our allies show the will to come to our defence if needed," said Kirsti Skjerven, of the Norwegian Defence Ministry.

Moscow, invited to send an observer to the exercise, may be reassured too.

When "war" broke out last week, 2,200 U.S. marines due to reinforce the NATO side got stuck aboard their



Remains of 2 Romanovs reburied in Russia

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Two members of the Romanov royal family who died in exile were reburied in the cathedral where Russian czars since Peter the Great have been interred. The remains of grand duke Kirill, a first cousin to Russia's last czar, Nicholas II, and of Kirill's wife, Grand Duchess Victoria, were brought to Russia for reburial from a cemetery in Coburg, Germany. They had died in the 1930s. The remains arrived in St. Petersburg by ferry and were transported across the city in black hearses to the Peter and Paul Cathedral. About 200 people stood solemnly in a drizzle outside the cathedral while St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, accompanied by dozens of priests and journalists, observed the placing of the remains in a church crypt next



SKIN CANCER CURE FOUND: A South Korean research team has developed a radioisotope-treated patch which they say can cure shallow skin cancers without surgery in less than an hour. These pictures, presented by team leader, Professor Lee Jong-Du of Yonsei University, show that a squamous cell cancer on the cheek of a 90-year-old woman (left) disappeared in three months. The team, headed by Park Kyung-Bae of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), will present the details of their discovery soon at international medical seminars, the Korea Herald said. Claiming development of the

ists it involved the use of powdered Holmium 165, which when treated in a laboratory reactor turned into Holmium 166 and emitted strong tumour-destroying beta waves. "Put the Holmium 166 patch on the skin for 30 to 60 minutes at maximum, and the treatment is complete," the reports quoted Dr. Park as saying. "The patient said he had taken a year to be treated with the patch for 30 minutes, disappeared in three months. The team, headed by Park Kyung-Bae of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI), will present the details of their discovery soon at international medical seminars, the Korea Herald said. Claiming development of the

Swarms of croc attack animals

POKIDAM, Guyana — Swarms of crocodiles have been attacking animals in the area, according to residents and officials. The attacks have been reported in the area of the Guyana-Venezuela border. The Guyana government has issued a warning to the public to be cautious when entering the area. The attacks have been reported in the area of the Guyana-Venezuela border. The Guyana government has issued a warning to the public to be cautious when entering the area.



Russian soldiers push an anti-aircraft gun unit as they change their position in Grozny. Russian forces admitted Tuesday that fighting was still going on in the Chechen capital a day after the government in Moscow said its troops had finished mopping up the last elements of resistance there (AFP photo)

Russian troops use carrot and stick in Chechnya

SLEPTOVSK, Russia (R) — Russian troops, adopting "carrot and stick" tactics, shelled Chechen positions in the west of the breakaway region but held truce talks Wednesday in another settlement.

Reporters based in Sleptovsk, a settlement in Ingushetia near the Chechen border, could hear fierce shelling throughout the night coming from a rebel stronghold between the villages of Bamut, Achkhoy-Martani and Samashki.

Only by early morning did the buzz of multiple-launch Grad missiles and the thumping of Howitzers and field guns cease.

Local militia, standing guard outside Samashki, some 40 kilometres west of the Chechen capital Grozny, said Wednesday the Russian were mainly shelling Bamut and Achkhoy-Martani — two well-fortified rebel bases.

Russia sent troops into Chechnya almost three

months ago to crush armed separatists. They have ousted rebels from the capital Grozny, but resistance remains strong in other areas.

Russian officials have acknowledged 1,200 deaths among Russian servicemen, but the real toll is believed to be much higher. Civilian casualties are estimated at several thousand.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Wednesday that some Russian troops had been wounded after coming under fire in the past 24 hours.

"Federal artillery shelled illegal armed detachments in the villages of Chechen-Aul, Novye Atagi, Urus Martani and other places," it said.

Radio Russia said Tuesday that Russian troops had surrounded and were set to storm the rebel stronghold of Argun, east of Grozny, at any moment.

There was no direct access to the battle scene around the western villages as Russian troops occupied positions

U.N. offers to change mission to keep troops in Croatia

NATO under pressure to agree pullout plan

ZAGREB, Croatia (Agencies) — The United Nations is offering to change its peacekeeping mission in Croatia to keep thousands of troops in place and avert a second Serb-Croat war, U.N. officials say.

The changes might appease Croatia's government, which ordered the 12,000 peacekeepers out by March 31, but it's unlikely the rebel Serbs who hold nearly a third of the republic's territory will agree.

President Franjo Tudjman's order in January, blaming the peacekeepers for failing to restore government control over rebel areas, raised the specter of renewed war once the peacekeeping troops leave.

The Serbs and Croats fought a six-month war in 1991 after Croatia declared independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

If more fighting breaks out, it could quickly spread to Bosnia, where Croatia's government announced a military alliance Monday with Bosnian Croats and the Muslim-led government.

To prevent that, U.N. officials say they are trying to meet some of Mr. Tudjman's demands to change their mission.

According to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity, the United Nations is offering to replace peacekeeping troops on the 1,125-kilometre (700-mile) Serb-Croat front line with unarmed monitors.

Croatia insists it will do its

utmost to regain Serb-held territory by peaceful means. But with monitors unarmed and restricted to reporting what they see, it would be easier to resort to force if necessary.

In addition, U.N. troops are offering to take up positions on Croatia's border, as Mr. Tudjman demands. But the Serbs control much of that border, and they're likely to reject U.N. control of cross-border traffic, which moves freely between Serbia and Serb-held eastern Croatia.

U.N. control of the border might let some of the 250,000 Croat refugees from Serb areas return to their homes, and reinforce Mr. Tudjman's insistence that the rebel-held border is Croatian, not Serb.

Michael Williams, U.N. spokesman in Zagreb, confirmed there is a proposal to revise the U.N. mission, but wouldn't give details.

In a surprise development Tuesday, European Union mediator David Owen said there was a chance to make some of the changes Mr. Tudjman wants. Lord Owen arrived from talks in Belgrade with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, a key figure in the region.

But Serb acceptance depends on the outcome of a power struggle in the Serb leadership. And Mr. Milosevic says he won't help any peace deal until the world lifts economic sanctions imposed on Serbia.

Milan Martić, leader of the Serbs in Croatia, vehemently

U.K.-IRA arms compromise sparks anger

LONDON (R) — Protestant politicians from Northern Ireland voiced anger Wednesday at an apparent easing of Britain's insistence that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) give up its arms before its political wing can enter full peace talks.

But Britain denied there had been a change of policy.

The government was expected to be closely quizzed on its position later Wednesday, when parliament debates so-called exclusion orders banning certain people entering mainland Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard confirmed in a radio interview that the British government would be lifting some of the orders after "security advice."

But the main focus is on arms, following comments by Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Speaking in Washington after meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Sir Patrick said Tuesday that Britain would press the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Féin, to show "a willingness in principle to disarm progressively," with the scrapping of "some arms" as a confidence-building gesture.

For Sinn Féin to take its place at the talks table, Britain wanted "a common practical understanding" of how the decommissioning of arms would be carried out.

Pro-British Unionist members of parliament from Northern Ireland swiftly accused the government of dumping its demand that all arms be handed in with a request for some arms only.

John Taylor, an MP for the Ulster Unionists, told BBC Radio: "This government is in full retreat from the threat of terrorism, both politically and in a security sense."

"That is why they have no

Former general tied to Belgian scandal found dead

BRUSSELS (R) — A former general in the Belgian Air Force linked to a defence contract corruption scandal that has shaken the government was found dead in a hotel room in Brussels Wednesday, a military source said.

Belgian media reported that it was suicide but this could not be confirmed by the police.

Jacques Lefebvre, 64, was a general in the air force in the late 1980's when the Italian defence firm Agusta is alleged to have given kickbacks to Socialist politicians

to secure the sale of 46 helicopters to the army.

Belgian RTBF Radio said staff at the Mayfair Hotel in central Brussels found the body of the retired general after breakfast. The general, who lived very near the hotel, had booked in for one night.

Six small bottles of whisky were found next to his body. There were no signs of violence or firearms, the radio added.

On Tuesday, a Brussels lawyer arrested over the so-called Agusta scandal, told investigators that the air force general was linked to

Winnie seeks meeting with S. African president

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Winnie Mandela is shunning South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and wants a meeting with her estranged husband President Nelson Mandela over corruption allegations, government officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Mbeki, appointed by President Nelson Mandela to look into the accusations threatening her cabinet position, wanted to meet her urgently to resolve the issue, his spokesman Ricky Naidoo told Reuters.

Mr. Naidoo said Mrs. Mandela had shunned Mr. Mbeki by not turning up for two meetings scheduled for Monday.

"She did not pitch up for

the meetings. Then she indicated she was not prepared to meet with the deputy president at all," Mr. Naidoo said.

"Last night the deputy president indicated in a letter to her that it was a matter of urgency for them to meet... he is concerned that the issue is running for a long time now, he wants to resolve it," Mr. Naidoo added.

Police are investigating allegations Mrs. Mandela used her position and influence to win housing contracts in the Gauteng region around Johannesburg for a building firm in which she had financial interests.

Lawyers acting for Ms. Mandela said Wednesday they were considering applying to the Supreme Court to order police to hand over documents and video film seized in a raid a week ago on her luxury home in Johannesburg's Soweto township.

"If they do not hand over documents soon, we can either go back to court outlining the failure of the police to respond in time to our requests or wait and see if they file today," lawyer Templeton Maseza told Reuters.

Mrs. Mandela, who is deputy arts, culture, science and technology minister, returned from an unauthorised trip to West Africa last week, charging she was the victim of a vendetta and vowing to fight back.

Balladur faces electoral jinx in presidency race

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, recently ousted in a stunning opinion poll upset as frontrunner for the presidency, will have to break an electoral jinx if he is to win the vote in May, pollsters say.

Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, of the same conservative neo-Gaullist party as the premier, has swept past Mr. Balladur in opinion polls published in the last week.

Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin was also level with Mr. Balladur ahead of the two-stage April 23 and May 7 election.

Opinion pollsters say no frontrunner in recent history has rebounded after being overtaken ahead of the first round. Yet no one is writing off Mr. Balladur's chances of recovery despite the premier's distaste for campaigning and his frosty style.

"We've never seen two candidates' popularity curves cross twice during a campaign, but this is not a law," said Stephane Vacher, head of research at the Louis Harris Polling Institute.

"And Chirac and Balladur are from the same party, so it may be easier for voters to switch allegiances," he said.

Polls show many voters switching to the more extrovert Chirac more out of exasperation with Balladur than enthusiasm for the Paris mayor, a two-time premier defeated by outgoing President Francois Mitterrand in both 1981 and 1988.

But surveys suggest about 45 per cent of voters have yet to make a firm choice.

Mr. Balladur, runaway favourite until early February, has stumbled over issues including a wire-tapping scandal, a spying row with the United States and a caveat to student protests.

"The situation can turn around, the electorate is very volatile," said Sophie Martin, director of Ipsos opinion.

Stephen Yorke, head of political research at Chase Manhattan Bank in London, reckoned the next month was crucial for the Chirac-Balladur rivalry as centre-right voters would side with



French Socialist Party presidential candidate ramme during a press conference in Paris Lionel Jospin, presents his campaign prog- (AFP photo)

the best-placed candidate in early April.

"History suggests that whichever centre-right candidate is ahead in the polls one month from now could see a dramatic increase in his support," he wrote, also predicting Jospin would reach the May 7 run-off between the top two.

In seeking to recover, Mr. Balladur has powerful backing from most of his cabinet, centre-right parties and a network of local elected officials across France. "And he has shown he can overcome adversity," said Carine Marce of the Sofres Institute.

In October 1993, a Sofres poll showed 68 per cent of voters reckoned Mr. Balladur would make a good president, but his rating tumbled to 47 per cent in April 1994. By December he had clawed back to 66 per cent. His rating is now 58 per cent.

While his role as prime minister opens him to the concerted criticism of all his rivals, it also offers greater exposure for his ideas and enables him to take credit if things go right.

A sharp fall in unemployment could yet revive his standing.

A strong card in an undecided electorate may be that voters aged over 50 — who turn out to vote more than the young — are among Mr. Balladur's strongest supporters. Mr. Chirac's best backers are young, first-time presidential voters.

It is hard to estimate who has the best core support. A recent Sofres poll indicated 61 per cent of voters for both Chirac and Balladur would not change their minds against 73 per cent firmly committed to Jospin.

Polls this week indicate Mr. Chirac would beat Mr. Balladur on the second round between the top two candidates, and that Mr. Chirac would defeat Mr. Jospin by a wider margin than Mr. Balladur. All three are in contention to reach the second round.

But precedents are worrying for Mr. Balladur. Mr. Chirac overtook former centrist Premier Raymond Barre in 1988 and Mr. Barre never again posed a challenge in a race eventually won by Mr. Mitterrand.

In 1974, centrist Valéry Giscard d'Estaing overtook Gaullist candidate Jacques Chaban-Delmas and went on to win. In 1969, Georges Pompidou overtook centrist

New York governor signs death penalty law

ALBANY, New York (R) — New York became the 38th U.S. state to restore the death penalty when Governor George Pataki, fulfilling an election campaign promise, signed a bill restoring capital punishment in the state.

Civil liberties groups immediately vowed to challenge the law, which empowers New York to begin executions by lethal injection from Sept. 1.

Republican Pataki reversed 18 years of vetoes by his two Democratic predecessors, Hugh Carey and Mario Cuomo, by putting his name to the legislation.

"The citizens of New York state have spoken loudly and

clearly in their calls for justice for those who commit the most serious crimes by depriving other citizens of their lives," Mr. Pataki said at the signing ceremony.

The last execution in New York was in August 1963, when armed robber Eddie Lee Mays died in the electric chair.

Norman Siegel, president of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said human rights groups would fight the new law.

"I think it is a bleak day for the citizens of New York but we will launch a massive public education campaign as well as possibly bringing litigation challenging the death penalty under the state constitution," Mr. Siegel said.

The death penalty is still banned in 12 states — Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan.

The New York law provides for the death penalty for killers of police officers, prison guards, judges and witnesses. Serial killers, terrorists, and killers who torture victims could also face execution, as would those convicted of murder in the course of a rape, burglary, kidnapping or robbery, or during a prison escape.

Women cannot be put to

death while pregnant and no one under the age of 18 can receive the death penalty.

Mentally retarded killers will be provided with a hearing if they show reasonable cause and mentally incompetent persons will be exempted from execution.

The bill requires juries to vote unanimously on the death sentence. If the jury is deadlocked, a judge can sentence a killer to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 20 years.

Mr. Pataki, elected last November after campaigning for restoration of the death penalty, said at the signing ceremony that the bill was good for law enforcement officers and for the families of victims of murders.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Visitor's useful hand

THERE IS more than the usual hope being pinned on the current visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East. This is so because the peace process has been deadlocked for so long on more than one front notably on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks.

The latest shuttle diplomacy by Mr. Christopher in the area coincides with the convening of the multiparty meeting in Amman on the issue of displaced Palestinians. The fate of the Palestinians in the diaspora is clearly critical to the entire peace effort not only because of their sizeable numbers but also due to the fact that determination of their future is a crucial question that has to be resolved. It so happens that non-resolution of this aspect of the Palestinian problem has tremendous implications on the host countries as well. Washington is therefore called upon not only to try to break the deadlock but also to lend a helping hand to bring the issue to a constructive resolution as soon as possible.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has already dimmed hopes of an early return of the affected Palestinians by raising the issue of non-availability of space for them in the "limited" space in the territories still under occupation. While it may be more difficult for Palestinian refugees of the 1947-48 era to return to their homes en masse because of irreversible changes on the ground, the situation posed by the refugees of the 1967 war is quite different. In the final analysis it is up to these Palestinians themselves to decide whether it is still economically and humanly feasible for them to return to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel cannot plead the argument of availability of space and room for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who may wish to exercise their right of return to their homes. This is where the visiting U.S. secretary of state can play a pivotal role in steering the whole effort into a more constructive and fruitful path.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING on the meeting held Tuesday in Amman between Arab and Israeli foreign ministers to determine the fate of the displaced Palestinians, Al Ra'i daily said differences were evident because the Israelis continue to reject Arab demands. The two sides spoke different languages over this issue, and it was clear that they would not reach a solution. While the Arabs demand the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Palestinian accords, the Israelis insist on their own views and reject all bids to allow the displaced Palestinians to return to their homeland. While the Arab side relied on U.N. resolutions and demanded the return of the refugees, the Israelis showed an adamant stand and asked that the whole issue be discussed from the beginning, added the paper. Discussing the right of the Palestinians to return means returning the whole question back to square one and rendering the whole peace process meaningless, continued the paper.

Fahd Al Fanek a writer for Al Ra'i daily expressed the view that the state's treasury would not be able to cope with the demands of the retired persons for better pension unless the government introduced new measures to raise the required funds to cover its obligations. The writer said that he was against increasing the pension to already retired civilian and military personnel not because they do not deserve that, but because the state would find it most difficult to come up with sufficient funds for the increase. According to Finance Ministry estimates, an amount of JD 43 million would be needed annually to cover the increasing pension, rising by half a million dinars monthly, something for which the state had made no provision in the fiscal budget, noted Fanek. He suggests therefore that the government either gradually raise from seven to 10 per cent the rate of the sales tax, or end exemptions of duty on certain non-essential commodities so that the government can raise sufficient funds to pay the pensioners.

The View from Academia

An emerging trend or a seasonal gesture?

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

WHEN ONE is stopped by traffic police in our part of the world, it is almost always for one of two reasons: For routine inspection of vehicle or licence or for a violation which one has committed, deliberately or unconsciously. Recently, a more desirable, more positive and more constructive trend seems to be emerging.

The first day of the Eid holiday, I was just getting off the Zarga-Amman highway and onto the so-called Green-belt road when a policeman standing next to a patrol car moved into the middle of the road and signalled me to stop. I pulled over to the side of the road. Aware of no violation I committed, I put my hand to my pocket aiming to take out my licence from my wallet, assuming the police officer wanted to have a look at it, as was customary in these cases. The policeman, who had reached me by then, put his hand gently on mine and, smiling very courteously, said, "No, sir, keep your licence where it is. I simply want to wish you a happy Eid." Both somewhat surprised and pleased, I shook hands with him and thanked him for his nice gesture. He then handed me a card and added, "Please drive safely, and happy motoring."

Before taking off, I read what was written on the card. On one side, it had the following: "The Public Security Department (PSD). We wish you a happy Eid and a safe life. Please observe traffic rules." On the other side, it had the picture of a child holding a sign saying, "Father, please drive slowly and come to us safe; we are awaiting your return."

At the risk of sounding somewhat sentimental, I must admit that I was touched. My day had started off badly that morning; I had had very little sleep the night before (and the night before that, and the night before it), had failed to pick up my mother at the early hour she wanted me to pick her up at, and the thought of meeting so many people I did not particularly want to meet or talk to was almost unbearable. But the policeman's cheerful face and the symbolism of the card he handed me turned the course of events for me that day 180 degrees. For one thing, we are in

dire need of courteous, cheerful faces in this part of the world, especially in public places. For another, I always get somewhat annoyed when traffic police stop me to check my licence; even though I understand why they do it, I cannot help but believe the act to be a waste of their time and mine, for my licence is always valid (as is the case with 99.99% of the Jordanian road population).

The importance of the gesture, however, goes well beyond that Eid day. In my opinion, it is significant in at least two ways:

First, there is no doubt that the image of the policeman in our society has improved quite noticeably over the years, especially in the past two decades. The recruitment of policewomen and university graduates, in addition to the adoption of various strict internal policies and firm guidelines with respect to police practice and behaviour, have helped humanise the police force quite dramatically. Generally, the PSD personnel are both polite and helpful. Nevertheless, there is still room for more improvement. Until now the image in the minds of the public is not as desirable as one would want it to be. We want our policemen (and I am talking about the overall image) to be friendlier, more cheerful, more courteous, more alert, more efficient, more helpful, more involved, etc. Until now, when parents want to scare their kids, they say, "I'll bring you the police." The public is to blame, obviously, for promoting this image about the police, but past police practices and some present ones are also to blame. We ought to set higher standards for our police force and expect it to live up to it. What happened the first day of the Eid is a step in this noble direction. The democracy era, which we have entered, and the peace era, which we are entering, necessitate more such steps.

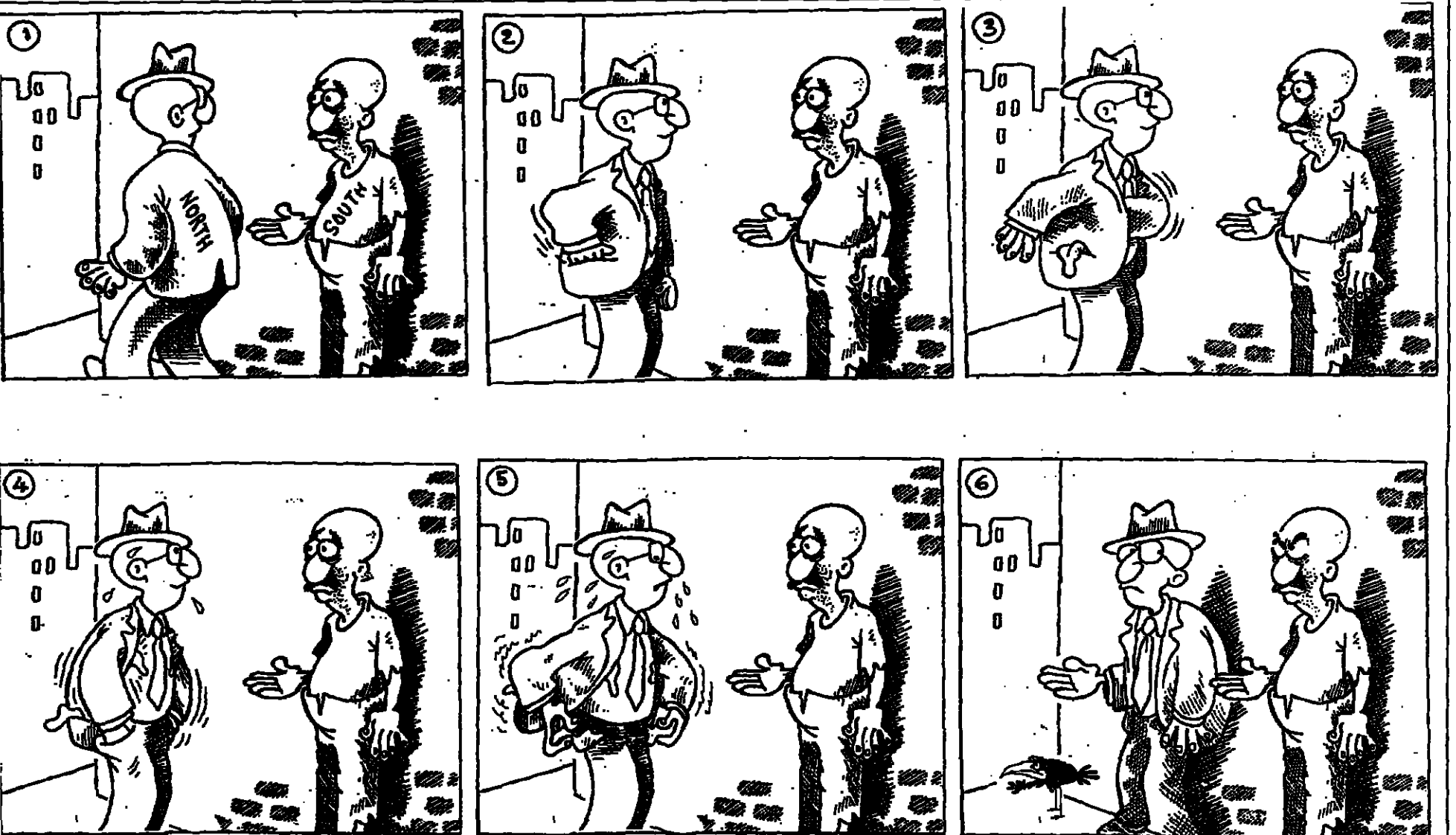
Secondly, we have always demanded of our traffic police to play a more effective role in preventing road accidents from happening. To ticket violators, to come to the rescue when an accident occurs or to talk to citizens through the radio and TV — we have always felt — is not enough. We

have always wanted our traffic police to go out into the roads and do something more concrete and effective than we have had for years.

Simple and humble as it is, what happened the first day of the Eid is important perhaps not so much in itself but in its symbolism and in its implications. The act signifies beyond any doubt that the police do care about the deteriorating traffic situation and that they are not indifferent, aloof and helpless, as it often appears. Since ticketing does not seem to be all that effective (it is effective up to a level) in curbing violations and reducing accidents, the PSD must think more creatively and dynamically.

The Eid gesture is very creative and very dynamic. People in our society do appreciate gestures of this sort, and ultimately such an approach will prove to be effective. The personal element, the personal factor, or the personal touch is crucial in our part of the world. In other parts of the world, written discourse (the press, leaflets, pamphlets, booklets, written laws, etc.) and oral discourse (radio, TV, lectures, etc.) can be effective even when delivered from a distance. In ours, a society which does not read much and does not concentrate much on oral discourse (except with respect to so-called hot issues), a handshake can be quite powerful and consequential. Citizens' consciousness or conscience is reached in ways as different and varied as today's world cultures themselves.

We want to see more gestures of the sort we saw during the Eid. My only wish is to have this form of police presence thrive and prosper, and not either die after a short while or appear on occasions only and in certain seasons. One of the main problems in our society is momentary short-lived enthusiasm. Individuals and institutions in our society get enthusiastic about tackling an issue for minutes, hours, weeks, or months. Slowly, their energy decreases and the enthusiasm abates, and we are back to zero. We hope to see the said gesture implemented for a long time to come.



M. KAHIL

Democratisation and Parliament: What's all the fuss about?

By James L. Gillespie

I AM one of that host of Western scholars who, not unlike the Saudi Arabian locusts, threaten to descend upon this peaceful Kingdom with preconceived prescriptions for improving the lot of women, modernising the economy and democratising government. Since last October, I have been a member of this last sub-species of locust, those concerned with Jordanian democratisation. His Majesty King Hussein recently reaffirmed his own resolve that Jordan "set an example to others in the Arab World in exercising democracy..." Having spent time in other countries in this region, I can assure His Majesty that Jordan is indeed an example to others.

Questions continue to be raised, however, about the role of Parliament and its relationship to the government, and the recent debates over the ratification of the peace treaty with Israel have highlighted such issues. Islamic Action Front deputies have complained that they were not given the opportunity fully to develop their objections to the treaty in the parliamentary debates. King Hussein's statement to deputies on Oct. 30, 1994 that "irresponsible behaviour must end," and the subsequent statement

by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan that it was time for all deputies to put divisions aside and get behind the peace process raised eyebrows among Western proponents of parliamentary democratisation. I myself have commented on this in a longer article in *Al-Nadwa*, the Bulletin of the World Affairs Council — Amman. Such concerns are genuine, but they reflect a very myopic understanding of the functions of democratic institutions.

The leisure provided by the Eid Al Fitr gave me the opportunity to review the work of one of the great scholars of the origins of British parliamentary institutions, Frederick Maitland. Just as too few Western scholars know anything of the richness of early Arab society and political concepts such as *Shura*, Western and Arab scholars and politicians have ignored the early history of parliament to their loss — and peril. We tend to see parliament as the great debating chamber of Gladstone and Disraeli where ideologies and orators clash until the people through their elected representatives discern the "truth." This is the view of parliamentary democratisation to which the nations of the world have been told

they must aspire. Yet, this is an ideal based as much upon the French and American revolutions as it is on the role and evolution of parliament. Government did — and does — serve far more mundane but none the less essential functions in the evolving political life of a nation.

ment should not aspire to express the popular will of the nation, but it does mean that scholars and politicians alike must broaden their conceptions of parliamentary and governmental relationships in the process of democratisation.

The most basic purpose of democratic government

"Speeches of ideological and/or theological fury and the convoluted machinations of fractious political parties, legacies of bloody Western revolutions, make for good reading in scholarly tomes. They do little, however, for the economy, the arts and sciences, or for the family and the good things by which we live."

Maitland rejected the romantic Victorian portrait of such a debating society parliament still embraced by so many political scientists for all their number crunching. He saw parliament in its origin and essence as an administrative and judicial instrument of government rather than as the vocalisation of national debates. Parliament only came to take on this latter function centuries later. This, of course, does not mean that Jordan's Parlia-

is not to provide a gladiatorial arena for irreconcilable ideological statements and a conduit for passionate debate. The democratic state's primary purposes are to make the lives of ordinary people secure and comfortable, to maintain a civil society through the rule of law, and — at its best — to provide a framework for personal happiness and even creativity. When political passions over volatile issues such as the peace treaty have been spent,

government — be it in Washington, in London, or in Amman — must fall into the hands of those who can best administer the instruments of the state frugally for the common welfare. Where ideological passions have triumphed as in Cambodia or in the Sudan, public welfare has been as great a victim as democracy itself.

Maitland saw parliament above all else as an institution developed to facilitate the administration of the resources of the state for the welfare of its people; this must remain the basic objective of Jordan's Parliament and of any legislature. Speeches of ideological and/or theological fury and the convoluted machinations of fractious political parties, legacies of bloody Western revolutions, make for good reading in scholarly tomes, and they sell copies of the *Jordan Times*. They do little, however, for the economy, the arts and sciences, or for the family and the good things by which we live. Taken in this context, scholars and politicians should unknit their brows. Politicians need to join with the government to create a democratic state based upon the Arabs' own tradition of *Shura*; the hoards of Western scholars need to assess democratisation in a way that includes this criterion. There needs

to be room to be sure for debate and for a loyal opposition, but debate is not the end towards which democratisation strives. *Shura* and the welfare of the Jordanian people must be that goal. To cite the Holy Koran: "If any do seek for glory and power — to Allah belong all glory and power."

James L. Gillespie is a post doctoral NMERTP fellow at the American Centre of Oriental Research in Amman (ACOR). Prior to coming to ACOR, Gillespie was professor of history, chairman of the History and Political Science Department and the Division of Humanities and Notre Dame College. He has published numerous studies of late medieval England. Gillespie is a Fellow of Royal Historical Society. A member of the National Council of U.S.-Arab Relations, Gillespie is deputy director of the Ohio Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations. He has been a Joseph Malone Fellow in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Syria. As an Anglican priest, Gillespie has served in parishes in Ireland and the U.S. where he has also acted as a hospital chaplain. In Amman Gillespie assists at the Church of the Redeemer in Jabal Amman. He contributed the above article to the *Jordan Times*.

Weekender

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Hitting the road in and around Jordan — thin line separates happiness from tragedy

COMPETITION ON BACK OF PAPER: While conflicts continued on the local press front between tabloid publishers and the government, we learned that Al Hayat Arabic daily, published in several capitals abroad, has received the "roll the presses" permission to print from Amman. An informal request made last year culminated in the approval to publish from Jordan last month when the paper's editor-in-chief, Jihad Al Khazen was in Amman to interview His Majesty King Hussein. The initial request made to the King over a year ago is explained by Al Hayat sources as a courtesy. Back in the 1960s, then publisher Jamil Mrowah's mother took refuge in Jordan. At the time the paper, published out of Beirut, was considered pro-Jordanian and its publisher, Kamel Mrowah was assassinated by pro-Nasserite forces in 1966. Therefore King Hussein has had an affinity towards the paper to start with. Although in more recent years Al Hayat has more than occasionally been banned from circulation in Jordan, its readership here is significant. It sells about 1,000 copies even though it arrives a day late. That the paper is owned by Prince Khaled Ben Sultan of Saudi Arabia has not prevented its banning in the peninsula as well. And that ownership is no negligible factor in the consideration of permitting the paper to publish out of Amman. Meanwhile the journal has also received the approval to print from the Ministry of Information. The Jordanian authorities would prefer that Al Hayat be printed in the Zarqa duty free zone as are several other papers. But the publishers are looking into the feasibility of contracting with the Jordan Press Foundation (JPF), the owners of Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, which they say is better equipped to do the job and likely to offer reasonable rates for the service. Al Hayat's surveys of the target market, which comprises Jordan and Palestine, point to an initial printing of 5,000 copies daily. Sources say the current 200 file news-stand cost of the paper (received now from Cairo) could be hiked when publishing starts from Amman. Accustomed to hi-tech printing facilities, the newspaper's administration is also exploring the possibility of installing a \$500,000 machine at the JPF (if that is the site selected for printing) which would receive print films via satellite. Depending on the outcome of discussions on costs and financial arrangements, Al Hayat could be in business here in the next few months. It would be interesting to see what kind of competition with the local dailies the move would trigger. "Competition with Jordanian dailies, however, is not our goal," the newspaper sources maintain.

TRAGEDY AND "COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT": Business for liquor store owners in Zarqa governorate was put on a 10-hour hold on the Saturday of 'Eid Al Fitr. An ordinance, issued by Zarqa Governor Mislak Tarawneh, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, obliged shopkeepers to shut their doors to customers from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. On Friday, police patrols passed by liquor shops, rounded up the shop owners in minibuses and brought them to the Zarqa police station to sign an affidavit stating that they would not sell any liquor between the hours designated on that Saturday. The ordinance was issued following a tragic two-vehicle collision on the Jerash-Zarqa highway that claimed the lives of an entire family of six. Authorities said the accident was the result of wreckless driving by a lone motorist driving the second car while under the influence of alcohol. In his weekly column in Al Ra'i, prominent Islamist Deputy Bassam Emoush described the pain he felt in witnessing six coffins — those of retired army officer Ahmad Hajis Al Hawaldeh, his wife, and four sons being carried from Bal 'Ama Mosque. Deputy Emoush, who is from the same Bani Hassan bedouin tribe as the victims, said he was further pained that he



Members of the Jordanian rock group, Mirage, pose with Haifa Mayor Amran Mitzna. The group was in Israel for a series of concerts. From left: Organist

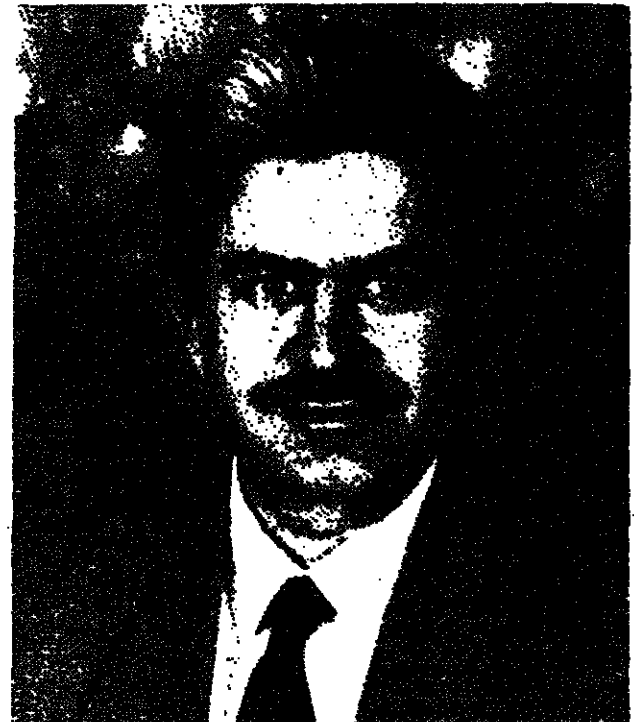
found no officials in attendance at the funeral — "no governor nor police director." The head of the family was a senior army officer and a Jordanian citizen, and officials should have participated in condoling the family of the deceased, Mr. Emoush wrote on Thursday. The deputy suggested measures to stem road accidents. "As a society and a state we should look for ways to reduce such accidents through enacting legislation banning the sale of liquor in Jordan and those under age 30 from driving trucks and buses," the deputy proposed. While shop owners and citizens were obliging the 10-hour liquor ban, many were angered. They first believe that for the number of days liquor shops are forced to shut down during the year (which include the entire month of Ramadan and all major Islamic holy days) the taxes they pay are not reflective of the number of days they actually conduct business. They pointed out that shutting liquor shops in Zarqa does not prevent anyone, much less an alcohol abuser, from purchasing liquor in Amman or Jerash. But more importantly perhaps, the liquor shop owners expressed concern that the act of the authorities could become a form of "collective punishment" that they believe is no inducement to responsible behaviour on the roads besides being undemocratic in nature. Many agree it is time for the state to modernise its ways in dealing with bad drivers on the road.

MOROCCAN DELIGHTS: An evening of tea and tasty Moroccan sweets highlighted the gourmet side of the celebration marking the accession to the throne of King Hassan II earlier this week. On the more serious side, the InterContinental Hotel's Mukhtar I and Mukhtar II halls filled up with a dazzling guest list of royalty, ministers, foreign diplomats, parliamentarians, journalists and other society notables in a strong show of brotherly ties between the two countries. Among the assemblage were Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid and Princess Majda, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and his wife Fatin, Minister of Transport Samir Kassar, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairah, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nayef Hadid and his wife Laila. Hosted by Moroccan Ambassador Mohammad Al Taher Banani, the packed event was accompanied on the sidelines by a Jordan Television special programme on the western-most Maghreb nation.

MARRYING IN FASHION: Adding to the throngs of people flowing in and out of

Amman's oldest five-star hotel last week were about 300 guests, invited to attend the nuptials of an Iraqi couple who had lived as far apart as Baghdad and London. Scouting about on the night of the wedding, two of our own JT sleuths were told that the price tag per invited guest ran a steep JD 70 versus the record JD 50 that we all had heard about before. But that price was said to include a breakfast "the morning after" as is purported the Iraqi custom. (We were not able to gather whether the food included baches.) The party's colour theme was classic, with flower girls attired in white dresses and black waist sashes, and dainty white satin ballet slippers. Entertainment lined up The Lions group of musicians who geared up in lime green and yellow blazers, and black tie with colour polka dots. An unusual treat was the appearance on stage of French belly dancer "Celestine" as well as prominent Iraqi singer Kazm Al Saher. If this week's wedding is an indication, Amman, not unknown for its lavish wedding parties, can perhaps look forward to a season or two of flamboyant, not-to-be-outdone, celebrations of holy matrimony, that would keep some people talking for weeks after the event is actually over.

MIRAGE IN ISRAEL: Although few here may be aware of it, people in Israel are still talking about the sell-out performances of the



Kamel Mahadin

Jordanian rock group Mirage while on a four-city concert tour. Attended mostly by Arab-Israelis and a considerable crowd of Iraqi and Moroccan Jews, the group's concerts were a big hit. Group members Talal Abul Arab, Aida Abu Nuwar, her husband Wael Abu Nuwar and Haitham Al Nasser were greeted with open arms and treated most hospitably during their stay. One cultural critic on this side of the river said of the group "They are great and very brave, I'm sorry I couldn't get a ticket to see them myself when I was visiting there."

NEW LINK IN A GROWING CHAIN: Stepping into new waters also is Chairman of the Department of Architectural Engineering at the University of Jordan Kamel Mahadin who has been chosen to assume the role of "Jordan PRIN" ("Point Relais d'Information" or "National Information Link") in which he will be in a position to inform those interested about the European Union-sponsored Med-Campus programmes for universities in the Mediterranean. Med-Campus deals with international relations among campus communities. This year there are 103 Med-Campus projects funded by the EU on annual basis totalling \$8 - 10 million a year. Three years ago, the University of Jordan had 5 projects at start of its participation in Med-Campus. Currently, three such projects, totalling 350,000 ECUs (JD 250,000) are with Dr. Mahadin's academic first love, i.e., the Department of Architecture. They are projects in landscape architecture and conservation and tourism development of coastal areas such as the Zarqa region along the Dead Sea. As the Jordan PRIN, Dr. Mahadin says he will inform people of better bridging with the EU universities, encourage more initiatives with campus communities within the Mediterranean Arab countries, provide a source of information about campus research, training, and activities within Mediterranean universities involved in Med-Campus programmes, and pay special attention to those universities not yet familiar with Med-Campus programme in Jordan. Dr. Mahadin, who just completed an architectural consultancy to AL Abayt university in designing campus buildings and master plans for their housing expansion, is cognisant of the value of peace to the region, particularly in the field of education. As Jordan PRIN, Dr. Mahadin believes that the new vision of peace allows people to work within a relaxed atmosphere, opens new channels and provides better for the coming generations. His commitments to regional and international cooperation include being in charge of the University of Jordan's regional office for cooperation with the University of the Mediterranean, and as coordinator of the Agha Khan Unit for Islamic Architecture at the University of Jordan.

One of the few landscape consultants in the Middle East Dr. Mahadin is currently writing a book on "Vernacular Architecture of Southern Jordan," documenting twelve villages of the south — a topic close to his heart since childhood when he travelled and lived in 16 towns and villages in the West Bank and Jordan, during the 25 years when his father, Ottallah Mahadin, served as governor of several districts. Dr. Mahadin is married to another Karaki, Khalida Maayta. The couple have four children and live near the university campus. A Ph.D. graduate from Texas A & M University in the U.S., Dr. Mahadin is well-known for his travel sketches and his collection of 300 small water colours depicting scenes from all over the world. Some of his work was featured in a recent University of Waterloo (Canada) publication of the works of 60 international architects entitled "Between Lines: From Doodles to Composition."

Jennifer Hamarneh

New film portrays life of famed Castrato

By Jane Morrison
Reuter

BRUSSELS — The celebrated Castrati Singers of the 18th century had the angelic voices of choirboys made powerful by adult lungs. Such voices have not been heard since a papal ban at the turn of this century prohibited the castration of small boys to produce the Castrati. But the makers of a new film about Farinelli, one of the most famous of the Castrati, have recreated his voice using a male and a female opera singer and some computer wizardry. Modern day singers do not have the range or power of the Castrati, said Gerard Corbiau, the director of Farinelli.

"So I had a completely crazy idea. Why not put two voices together, one of a man and one of a woman," said Corbiau in a magazine interview. The voices of Polish soprano Ewa Mallas Godlewska and American countertenor Derek Lee Ragin were fed into a computer and welded together note by note to produce the Castrati sound. Countertenors sometimes play the Castrato roles in modern day opera productions, but theirs are falsetto voices without the power of the genuine Castrati. The castration of pre-pubescent boys to preserve their soprano or contralto voices were never officially sanctioned,

but in the early 18th century when the Castrati's popularity was at its height, an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 young boys were castrated each year in Italy. Many of the castrated boys failed to develop good voices. The practice ended in the early 20th century after Pope Leo XIII banned the use of the Castrati in the papal choir in 1902. The voice of the last Castrato, Alessandro Moreschi, was recorded in 1902 to 1904. But they are the only surviving recordings and the quality is poor. As the Castrati grew into adults, they developed larger than normal rib cages and lungs from the hours of singing,

giving them extremely powerful voices. They had a wider vocal range and could hold notes much longer than ordinary singers, sometimes for more than a minute. Castrato singers were extremely popular throughout Europe in the 18th century. They played to huge audiences and could become very wealthy. Farinelli, whose real name was Carlo Broschi, led the lifestyle of a modern day pop star. He sang for royalty and made love to beautiful women — a Castrato was sexually able but sterile. Born in 1705, Farinelli travelled and performed throughout Europe. He starred in a London

theatre and lived in England from 1734 to 1737. The last 22 years of his career were spent in Spain, where he was personal singer to two Spanish kings. He retired to Italy a very wealthy man, around 1760 and died in 1782. Corbiau, working with his wife Andree, focuses on Farinelli's emotionally-charged relationship with his elder brother Riccardo, a mediocre composer. The brothers share everything, including women. They grow apart but are reconciled in Spain at the end of the film, which is based only loosely on the singer's life. Much of the plot centres around Farinelli's rivalry with the London-based

composer George Frideric Handel. At one of the film's high points, Farinelli performs from a stolen copy of one of Handel's works to audience cries of "one God, one Farinelli." Corbiau's film won a Golden Globe Award in the United States for Best Foreign Film and has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign-Language Film. Farinelli opened at the end of 1994 to packed cinemas in Belgium, France and Switzerland and has been bought by distributors in 36 countries. It opens in the United States on March 17. The film, which cost 400 million Belgian francs (\$12.5 million) to make, is

very much a European production. The European Union was one of its backers, the script is in Italian, French, German and English and it was made in Germany, Spain and Belgium. The Castrato's voice was created in France.

Thoughts for this week

Nothing annoys a man as to hear a woman promising to love him "forever" when he merely wanted her to love him for a few weeks — Helen Rowland, American writer, journalist and humourist (1876-1950).
That which is everybody's business is nobody's business — Isaac Walton, English writer (1593-1683).
The old forget. The young don't know — Japanese proverb.

Of keyboards and mice

By Jean-Claude Elias

In the world of information technology, and more particularly in the personal computers (PC) field, the general trend is definitely toward "faster, more powerful, less expensive, smaller, better and above all friendlier." This euphoric feeling however hides a deceptively simple problem — yes we can call it a problem — that still remains unsolved — keyboard typing.

The widespread usage of the computer mouse has drastically reduced the need to key in letters or control the cursor movement from the PC keyboard. Still, being able to type, in order to enter text and/or commands is a skill one cannot ignore or neglect when working with PCs, at the risk of reduced efficiency.

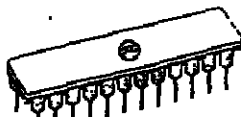
How can you convince someone who wishes to become proficient with computers to take typing courses? His or her first obvious reaction would generally be: "...I am not planning to be a typist but a computer pro..." This is perfectly understandable, but there doesn't seem to be a way around this difficulty for the time being.

In the last few years, the industry has offered a couple of "non-keyboard" solutions for data entry. Efforts have also been made in order to make these solutions affordable to home users and small businesses. Though they did not really fail, none has succeeded in replacing the keyboard or even come close to it in terms of practicality and efficiency.

Scanners have become quite popular recently. These photocopier-like machines take sheets of printed text, read them thanks to an optical sensor and send the text to the computer. No need for typing. Almost a miracle solution. Unreliable and expensive a few years ago, scanners have been much improved on both the technical and the cost aspects. The OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software that works in conjunction with scanners has also been greatly enhanced. Of course, they are useful only when the printed text is already available on paper. If you are writing original material, you still have to use a regular keyboard and type in your work.

Another alternative, still in its infancy is voice

chip talk



recognition. With inexpensive hardware and software options, easily found in Jordan, one can speak in a standard microphone connected to a PC and see the spoken words being printed on the screen. Instead of browsing through long menus and sub-menus, one can also give instructions and send commands to the computer via the same microphone. The system however is not well tuned and has many flaws. It is easily fooled by ambient noise and needs to be "trained" before being used. This involves going through a process of defining all the functions one intends to use, make the system recognise one's voice, speak with a sustained tone, and so forth.

Even when voice recognition is perfected — and it is certainly going to be — it won't make the keyboard obsolete; it only when you'd rather work in silence and do not want everybody in the room to listen to what you're doing. All those reluctant to learn typing should take a deep breath and start learning now. The sooner the better.

One doesn't need to be a perfect typist. Most people with some experience of PC's use only 4 of 5 fingers, and at random, to type. What matters is to reach an acceptable speed and comfort levels in order to concentrate on actual computing rather than searching for the characters location on the keyboard.

Now that computer usage has become an official part of schools curriculum, finding a way to teach typing to the young is more important than ever. Unless someone can come up with a better way to enter data.

Faith in the future is about reading between the lines

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaceen

Have you noticed that there are certain bottles and jars in your kitchen that never get consumed? They may be things you bought on a whim, things that guests brought as a present or things that you bought on holiday and that seemed a wonderful idea at the time. But the moment for opening and consuming all these things has somehow come and gone. Yet they remain unused. Just like many of our talents!

If the art of building has become a fundamental expression of our technological ability, of our social and spiritual objectives and of humanity's sense of harmony and ethics, why then are we stripping human motivation bare in our art — if we can call it that — of building? Our buildings are far from inspiring and our city neither celebrates our society nor respects nature.

I am not writing any of this out of anger, rather out of bitterness. And it's not just the state of our architecture that I am bitter about. It is everything we do. From the way we talk to each other to the way we talk about each other. I am aware however that, throughout, I have set my standards far too high, but I can find ample justification for this. You only have to look at the way we set criteria for everything we do over here.

So it will only be fair to ask whether, in these last years of this century, we are who we are or whether we are who we hope and think we have become?

Confused? You ought to be. Let me see if I can make this any clearer; look at the way we build roads in Amman.

Why is it that we decide to build a one mile stretch of a new major highway in two months when surely we can execute the job far more effectively in six. In any case, nobody has come to us with an explanation as to why the building of this road has had to be

completed so quickly. We have waited for over ten years for it, so surely we can wait for a few more months if it means that we would not have to start patching up the base course that was so hastily laid when it begins to give way in a few months' time.

Surely it makes more sense to spend the money we have to spend making sure that every existing street in this city is made both fit and safe for both the pedestrians and the vehicles using it. We should be doing this rather than creating more streets that would be declared both unfit and unsafe by any standards.

If a street needs a pavement, we should have one built. If the existing pavement is weathered, we should have it replaced. If we think we need a pedestrian crossing somewhere, we should have one made. If we think that a tunnel crossing for pedestrians is needed, we should have one built. If we think we need more, we should have more built. At any rate, such crossings should be institutionalised and not built as mere "white elephants". Just try crossing the streets around the bus depot in Abdali and you will see exactly what I mean.

We have streets, even in the newest areas of Amman, that start at one end at ten metres wide and ends up at fifteen metres at the other. We have streets in strictly residential areas that are over thirty metres wide. We have a roundabout that is ten metres in diameter sitting in the middle of fifty-metre wide two-road junction. I should know. This last monstrous piece of "design" is just outside my doorstep.

But everything that is wrong with our city is out there just outside all our doorsteps, and if we do not even begin to learn to care then we are not going to get anywhere. We have a long and difficult way ahead of us. And a lonely voice will not be able to cure the ills of the city.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

■ In the 17th century, a wealthy Dutchman bartered 17,000 pounds of cheese, 4 oxen, 8 pigs, 12 sheep, a bed and some clothes for only one tulip bulb.

■ In 1943, a new volcano erupted in a Mexican farmer's ranch.

■ In the late 18th century, the elders of a French village roamed the streets on the Love Day shouting the names of unmarried men and girls at legal age of marriage.

■ In the 10th century, the law of divorce in Wales County, Britain, stipulated the transfer of the nursery of a family's tame cat to the husband immediately after divorce.

■ A Californian engineer designed houses in the shape of snails and hornets' nests and supplied them with special materials to get sun-baths and huge wings to produce ventilation.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Have you ever met him before?
 Hal sabaga wa'an qabaltahu fee hayatik?
 — Come and sit beside me. Ta'ala wajless bejanibi.
 — It's the biggest shop in Jordan.
 Innahu akbar mahal fil-Ordunn.
 — Children are the best critics. Al-atfal afdal nuqqad.
 — He was born blind and deaf.
 Wolida aama wa-asam.

— Why are you asking the same silly question?
 Lemaza tas'aluni nafs 'as 'al as-sakbeef.
 — Are you single, married or divorced?
 Hal anta azab, mutazawwij am mutal'iq?
 — He denied had had stolen her jewellery.
 Ankara annahu saraqa mujaw'barateha.
 — I feel, disappointed since she made no progress.
 Ash'or bekhaibet amal le'annaha lam tohzet takaddoman.

JOKES

★ The seventh-grade class which my brother teaches was holding a magazine-subscription sale. The morning after the sale started one boy reported that he had already sold \$20 worth.

"How did you manage to sell so many so quickly?" my brother asked.

"I sold them all to one family," the boy replied. "Their dog bit me!"

★ On a crowded street recently a policeman wheeling an abandoned baby in his carriage towards the police station was startled to hear a small boy call out, "Hey, what's the kid done?"

★ A customer once called the photographic department of Macy's, New York City, to ask if it would enlarge a snap shot of her son. Of course it would. Then she wanted to know if his hat could be removed—she would rather have the enlargement without it. That, too, could be done; but on which side did he part his hair, and was it straight or curly? "Don't be silly," snapped the woman. "You'll see that when you take his hat off!"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is an Indian Rajah?
2. What is the Kremlin?
3. What is a still-room?
4. What is meant by "taking pot-luck"?
5. What is the Pope's palace called?
6. What is a job lot?
7. What is a jennet?

PUZZLES

SCENIC ACROSTIC

If you fill in the correct letters horizontally, the two ringed vertical columns will give the name of a natural wonder of the world.

1. Poom Lim survived 133 days alone on a
2. En-lil-ti might be the first known personal
3. is the most widely spoken language.
4. Loughborough, Leicestershire, is well-known for
5. David Bryant won or shared 12 championships.

Director reaps comedy from Russia's rough transition

By Judith Ingram

NEW YORK — Ask a Russian on a bad day what colours his world, and you're likely to hear a depressing litany of complaints: Poverty, crime, corruption and hypocrisy, for starters.

Film director Yuri Mamin greets that list with a broad smile.

"Take our Russian reality too seriously, and

you'll give yourself a heart attack. But look closer, and you'll see that our hard, uncomfortable life contains a lot of funny aspects," he said, sinking back into the couch of his New York hotel suite.

Misery loves a laugh once in a while, and Mamin has found a rich trove of comedy material in post-Communist Russia. American viewers got a taste of his humour

when Mamin's 1993 film, *Window To Paris*, began its U.S. run recently.

As the movie begins, its hapless hero, Kolya, is steadily losing all he had. Without a home, he's spending nights in the gymnasium of the elementary school where he teaches music.

Soon he loses his job, too: The school, following an all-business curriculum, needs his classroom

for its valuable new computers.

Kolya is allotted a room in a communal apartment — one of the group homes that proliferated in the biggest cities in the housing-starved Soviet Union. The apartment is stuffed with upright pianos, which the inhabitants use to store boxes of macaroni, and overrun with chickens, ready sources of eggs and an

occasional soup.

Kolya's new neighbours carry off most of the antique furniture that belonged to the old woman who lived in the room until her death. But they leave behind a wardrobe, in which Kolya and his apartment-mates discover a window that deposits them on a rooftop — in Paris.

Their new city is suffused with light and colour, inviting cafes and markets stuffed with fresh produce.

Window To Paris follows the Russians as they travel between the two worlds, carrying hams and cars in one direction and homesickness in the other, and alternately repelling and enticing their French neighbours to join them in Russia.

In their travels back and forth, they test myths about foreign lands — dreamscapes of wealth and high culture — and their attachment to mother Russia, where they fondly remember long nights sitting round the kitchen table, sharing a bottle of vodka, a pickle and big ideas.

Ultimately, as the window is closing, they must

make a choice: to accept

their lot at home or choose exile, as generations of Russian artists did in Paris.

"The striking thing about Russians is that we don't want to live at home, and we can't live abroad," Mamin said.

"It's a tragic situation — and a very comic one, too."

At the start of his six-day U.S. trip to promote *Window To Paris*, Mamin found his own mind wandering nervously back to home, where a government committee was deciding whether to subsidise his next film.

Russian cinema has entered a netherworld between state support and the free market. The Soviet system of control over all aspects of filmmaking, from vetting scripts to booking runs in government-owned movie theatres across the country, is gone.

So is the funding the system guaranteed — and filmmakers are struggling to find the money to shoot films to compete with the American and other imports that dominate Russia's movie screens.

Mamin is luckier than

most. *Window To Paris* was a rare, home-grown

hit with Russian audiences, and his relationship with the movie's French co-producers and distribution deal with Sony Pictures Classics suggest that he can attract foreign investors.

Still, he complains, even investors with deep pockets won't venture to sink money into a film that does not have even partial funding. The only source of that funding in Russia remains the state. So far, the government has been reluctant to treat Mamin's comedies seriously, he said.

"Is it normal not to give money for a film that can attract millions of viewers and be recognised at festivals abroad?" he asked.

"Such films should be given a green light. But there's no thinking ahead."

Mamin is passionate about saving the Russian film industry, hard-hit by the shrinking state budget, high inflation and newly unfettered competition from foreign imports in movie theatres and on video. The solution he proposes is simple: Ploughing movie revenues

back into filmmaking.

Even before *Window To Paris* opened in Russian theatres, Mamin said, it was available on pirated videos.

"This money ends up in the pockets of 1,000 small-business men who steal not only American and European films, but ours, too," he said.

Mamin clearly thrives on the new creative freedom in Russia, and the rich subject matter, but the 48-year-old director admitted that the endless chase after funding was dissipating.

Time and again, he returned to one of the film's key images, speaking almost wistfully of a man bouncing up and down, up and down on a trampoline.

"All you can do calmly, on your own, is jump," he said. "But things get harder as soon as you get off the trampoline. Here they don't give you what you want. There they force you to do things differently. In another place they interfere with your work."

He paused gloomily for a moment, as if he'd forgotten his own best antidote to life's hard knocks.

And then he laughed.

1st one-day-only disposable lenses introduced

NEW YORK (AP) — Contact lens makers have taken disposability to its ultimate level — lenses you wear for one day and dump in the trash.

Convenient? Yes. You'll never buy another bottle of lens cleaner. You'll never awaken with crusty eyes or fogged vision after wearing your lenses to bed.

But you'll pay about \$700 a year.

Johnson and Johnson, the company that introduced first disposable lenses in 1987, will launch the first one-day-only product. 1-day Acuvue lenses will be available nationally, following 1½ years of

test marketing in several states.

Competitor Bausch and Lomb began test marketing its own version, called New Day, in four states a month ago.

Optometrists say the new lenses provide the best vision, comfort and safety available, but the high price will deprive them to many.

"If you're making \$700,000 a year, it may be worth it for an individual to pay \$700 a year to get the comfort and convenience that a one-day disposable lens offers," said Dr. Kenneth Lebow, chairman of the American

Optometric Association's contact lens section. "If you're making \$700 a month, it's obviously a different type of situation."

Johnson and Johnson said Tuesday that, for many people, the one-day lenses will be the difference between wearing lenses or glasses.

"Convenience is really the driver," said Gary Kunkle, president of Johnson and Johnson Vision Products Inc. "People who drop out say it is the hassle and inconvenience of lens care and this eliminates that."

Conventional contact lens wearers must perform

a nightly ritual of taking out their lenses, rubbing them in a disinfectant solution overnight. Once a week, wearers must immerse the lenses in an enzyme solution that removes accrued deposits.

While a fresh pair once a year might cost less than \$100, the solutions and enzyme pills add about \$150 to \$200 a year to that total, eye doctors say.

Of the roughly 27 million contact lens wearers in the United States, about 20 per cent wear disposables, and the percentage is growing, said Mr. Kunkle.

JTV PROGRAMME NOT RECEIVED

Comedian Jerry Lewis finally makes it to Broadway

By Michael Kuchwara
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jerry Lewis is making faces. Bug eyes. Grand canyon-sized smile. A mock frown. The goofy grin that has made the comedian recognizable around the world.

Cracking jokes and cackling to no one in particular, Lewis methodically mugs his way through a dozen or so poses. After 63 years in show business (he started at age 5), the man knows how to give photographers what they want.

During those six decades, Lewis has worked just about everywhere — from hotels to nightclubs to television and, of course, Hollywood. The one place Lewis hasn't played is Broadway.

It's an oversight the comedian rectified on Feb. 28 when he reopened the *Damn Yankees*, the hit musical revival that has been on hiatus during the lean box-office months of

January and February.

In the show, which is set in the 1950s, Lewis plays the devil who orchestrates the fondest fantasy of an aging Washington senators baseball fan. He transforms the man into a young baseball hero who leads the senators in their quest for an American League title.

It's not the musical's largest role, but the part is showy — and Lewis is taking his responsibility seriously. He went into training, vowing to drop 25 pounds (11 kilograms) before his first performance. The goal: 170 pounds (77 kilograms), his perfect weight, he says, to play eight performances a week.

"I have six more pounds to go — and they will be gone," Lewis said confidently during an interview the other day in a Tony Manhattan Hotel suite. Dressed in a casual navy blue jacket and a bright red sports shirt, the youthful Lewis doesn't look he'll be 69 years old on March 26.

Maybe it's the result of his three-month regimen — four miles (6.4 kilometers) on the treadmill in the morning, then four hours with his long-time drama coach Joe Bernard, then four more miles (6.4 kilometers) on the treadmill in the afternoon. All this on 800 calories a day.

Lewis has been a physical comedian for all of his show-business career. He has fallen off tables, balconies, a chandelier or two and onto a variety of surfaces, most of them more than a little hard. He is a descendant of Charlie Chaplin and a predecessor of today's hottest star, Jim Carrey. The man made people laugh simply by falling down.

"I took my first pratfall at 5 years old," Lewis says, "and I am paying for it now. Doing my own stunts was the biggest mistake I ever made. I just never ever allowed anyone else to do my work for me. I felt that was wrong."

Today, he endures constant back pain as the result of a spinal injury caused by all that clowning around.

"Yet I would do it all over again," Lewis says. "It's just such a good feeling of completion to finish a stunt."

Where did he learn the stuff of being funny? Without hesitation, he says, "my father." Danny Lewis was a longtime Vaudeville performer and also played Burlesque and the Borscht Belt, the U.S. summer resort hotel circuit in the Catskill Mountains. The comedian talks about his father with the reverence of a true fan.

"Anything you ever saw me do, my father did — only better," Lewis says. "He molded me. I watched every performance my father did except when he was in Burlesque or on the road."

"My father was absolutely the most versatile man I've ever seen. He danced as good as Astaire, he played instruments, he did mime, he conducted

the orchestra. He was my hero. He should have been the biggest star in the world."

When Lewis was doing his first film in Hollywood in the late 1940s, he asked his father, "why didn't you push a little more — you could have entertained millions rather than the small audience you reached in the Catskill Mountains?"

The father answered simply, "if I had done that I wouldn't have gotten any more satisfaction. I fed my wife and son. I feel responsible in that I have met my duties and that I am making people happy."

Lewis has found happiness with his family — his second wife, Sandee, and his 2-year-old daughter, Danielle. She is his first daughter, after five sons from his first marriage.

"Danny is my centre," Lewis says with proud enthusiasm. "She's part of my second lifetime. For me, she is what I didn't have at 18. At that time, I was so busy with myself,

so enamoured with what was happening to my career, that I didn't really meet my sons until they were 4 or five years old. We eventually bonded and became very close, but I missed their beginnings. Now with Danny, since the day she was born, she's mine every morning for two hours, and boy, does she have a sense of humour."

She makes him laugh, Lewis says, describing his own sense of humour, which he insists is not unique.

"I laugh at the same things that make everybody else laugh," he says. "You can teach someone to be funny, but you can't teach them 'funny bones.' You're born with that. I could teach someone to say funny things or to delineate a funny notion. But you can't instill timing. You have to have funny bones to feel that beat," he says as he snaps his fingers in unison with his own speech patterns. The timing was perfect.



Jerry Lewis plays the clown in the film *Hardly Working*

Claudia Schiffer and her book A model goes private in public

By Herbert Riehl-Heyse

MUNICH — It's all very exciting, though maybe a little crowded, but that's just the proof that this is all very exciting. The entire Hilton Hotel is full of people accompanying the author, guarding the author, being led to her, admitted into her presence. In situations like that things have to be organized.

Before me it's the turn of the people from Radio Gong (ten minutes) and the newspaper *Tyroler Tageszeitung* (also ten minutes). After me it's the *Austrian tabloid Kronenzeitung*, *Radio Varivari*, the North Bavarian Newspapers Circle, who will presumably surround the author.

She has 65 interview dates in two and a half days. Gudrun Rohe, the press spokeswoman of the Heyne Publishing Company, can't remember a greater media furore in the history of German publishing.

That's understandable: The book that's being pushed by this sales campaign is called *Claudia Schiffer* — in private.

That's the author's name too, because the people otherwise listed in the publishing details are a text editor and an interviewer who reports the most important details about Claudia in the third person. Such details, for example, as that when she's at home in Rheinberg "she saunters along the small town's streets quite normally." Quite confusing that, because of course you'd expect her to be wearing a flowing skirt and doing a little twirl every third step.

Be that as it may. What's certain is that we will soon be talking to the "most beautiful woman in the world" (page 49), who is currently Germany's only world star" (Gudrun Rohe). This is a highlight in the life of a journalist, even if he suspects that the comment on page 58, "she's a star of the kind you can touch", isn't meant to be taken literally.

In any case, it's fantastic that she got up at seven in the morning even for me so that confessor Gerhard Meir and Munich's most important make-up expert

can make her pretty. Now I quickly put on the name tag they've given me so that she'll know who she's talking to in the course of this very private conversation. All that's left to do now is for me to come up with some halfway intelligent questions and make sure I deliver them in as cool a manner as possible. I just hope my jacket fits me properly.

In the end it's not such an ordeal. Claudia (today she's wearing a little black number by Chanel) is very nice. The first thing you do is worry whether she gets enough to eat. Yes, she says, though unfortunately she is one of those girls who really have to watch their weight. As to the interviews, she says, she really likes doing them, it really is "a great feeling that so many journalists are interested in my book."

Things get even more interesting when we start talking about whether she's afraid that later on in life when all the hullabaloo about her fame has subsided she might not know what to do with herself and be depressed. No,

she says, it's possible to be happy without being famous. What's more she's so busy, opening a restaurant, and working on a second book. For the moment, however, she seems to prefer being happy and famous.

Then my 25 minutes are up and outside in the corridor there's a great deal of pushing and shoving that won't be without consequences. A gigantic wave of Schifferitis is poised to break over Germany (and afterwards over Italy). Claudia is going to be on talk-master Gottschalk's show, and in programmes aired by the TV broadcasters ART and ZDF. Everybody except Claudia seems to know that she's going to be coned in a comedy programme. No-one from Germany's leading news magazine *Der Spiegel* is there, and the press spokeswoman says they wouldn't be given an interview anyway because of the nasty things they wrote about "models' megalomania."

That doesn't matter, as long as everything works out. Some 50,000 copies

of the remarkably plain little book have already been ordered. And there will be many more orders. Frau Rohe is very happy when she compares all this to the frustrating time she usually has.

Exactly a year ago, she says, it was her job to market a book written by this "incredible woman" called Christa Noble who helps street urchins in Vietnam. She telephoned around to publicise that book for six weeks and managed to organise only 20 interviews. Only eleven people turned up to an evening lecture and discussion in Hamburg's museum of Ethnology for which the author had spent 19 hours flying in especially from Vietnam. And this time? "Finally the journalists are queuing up."

On really, we're queuing up? What an incredible comment. There's no comparison, after all, Ms. Schiffer is a world star, and Ms. Noble isn't! — And if this weren't all so very exciting maybe we would think about why that's so — *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.



Supermodel Claudia Schiffer during a recent holiday on the (left) relaxes on a boat in the Balearic Island (AFP photo) harbour of Palma De Mallorca

Hero Altman turns into fashion world's bete noire

By John Follain
Reuters

PARIS — A few months ago, the stars of the French fashion world were falling over themselves to shine in Robert Altman's spoof movie *Pret-A-Porter* (Ready-To-Wear).

This weekend, the tall and lanky American director has been forced on to the defensive in the capital of haute couture as some stylists angered by his light

satire aim their thimbles and scissors at him.

After a mixed reception from reviewers in the United States, Altman and his promotion team have brought their baby to Paris. Unveiled to a lukewarm reception at a weekend press screening, it went on general release in France last week.

It has already prompted heavy criticism from Chanel's designer Karl Lagerfeld and from fashion writers.

In the central French city of Lyon, transport authorities banned the poster advertising it as too steamy. The poster shows a frontal shot of three naked women but the title of the film hides their private parts.

The keynote image of the film is a collection in which models parade naked down the catwalks, symbolising the vanity and futility of the fashion world.

"Audiences may find

his film funny but people like me who love and are passionate about fashion are disappointed..."

In *Pret-A-Porter*, you never see anybody working," said Suzy Menkes, fashion editor for the Paris-based *International Herald Tribune*.

"Altman hasn't understood the joys and pleasures of the sector... He hasn't understood the details and the collections that he filmed," she complained.

In March, Paris fashion had high hopes of Altman, giving him a free rein to upstage the ready-to-wear shows.

Sophia Loren, Lauren Bacall and Kim Basinger — the tip of the iceberg in the star-studded film — turned many of the shows into a chaotic crush for celebrity photos, while several designers played to the camera.

Asked about the rumour he has prompted in the fashion world, Altman

told the Sunday newspaper *Le Journal Du Dimanche*: "The rumour was there already. It's not my fault... People don't like the way I treat their universe. So what?"

"The truth is that I think the same thing about all the circles I have described in my films where people are full of their own importance," he said.

But Altman, whose *The Player* derided Hollywood, acknowledged: "If I'd thought the film would

have caused so many problems, I would definitely not have made it."

Altman's plot involves the sudden death of the president of French fashion's governing body, while in a limousine with a mysterious Russian played by Marcello Mastroianni who immediately becomes suspect.

Bacall, cast as an ex-Vogue editor, buys out the fashion house of designer Simone Lowenthal (Anouk Aimee), the vic-

tim's mistress. Loren plays his wife.

Meanwhile Anne Eisenhower (Julia Roberts) a Houston Chronicle reporter, loses her baggage and spends the fashion week in bed with a Washington Post sports writer (Tim Robbins).

Altman has yet to receive complaints from journalists that he has failed to understand their profession.

Male models take back seat to female superstars

By Samantha Conti
Reuters

ROME — They pout just like the women, put in as many hours on the catwalk and strut for the same designers, but the buck stops there. Boy, do they earn less.

Life is far from fair for male models, and there is only one explanation — fashion is a world dominated by women.

At Milan's ready-to-wear shows — the next one starts on March 5 — supermodels like Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Carla Bruni will earn \$10,000 from each design-

er they work for. Their male counterparts — men at the height of their careers — will earn half or sometimes even a third of that.

Modelling is one of few professions where women earn more than men. Industry experts say it is because women's faces — and bodies — make products more attractive, and the female clothing, accessories and cosmetics market is bigger.

"Men don't have the same leverage as women," said Calvin French, the head booker for men at Italy Model Management

in Milan.

"Even a brooch, a little pin, needs a woman's face to sell. It's woman's business and a man cannot expect to make as much," he told Reuters.

The women's market is also much larger. Last year in Italy, the women's clothing industry recorded sales of more than \$12 billion — a billion more than sales of men's clothing brought in. Add to that sales of perfume, cosmetics, and jewellery — not big sellers in the male market.

"We are paid because of what we sell, we are not paid because of what we

are. Compared to what we sell we are paid little, compared to what we are, we are paid a lot," said Italian supermodel Bruni.

"Men are not going to sell as many suits and they are not going to sell any creams, so they will not be paid as much as we are," she added.

Blue-eyed Bruni, like other supermodels, has often been criticised — called a vampire even — for what she earns.

Many of the men say they accept the nature of the business, and that they want to use modelling as a stepping stone to careers in the film or music indus-

tries. "Women have been degraded all their lives, men have been put on a pedestal, and now in this business women are put over men," said model Keith Mouse.

"That's just the way it's going to be. Men are going to have to suck it up and handle it or get out of the business," said Mouse, an American who modelled in Milan during ready-to-wear shows earlier this year.

Mickey Hart, a model from Luxembourg, said earning less than women did not bother him. "You could ask whether

it's fair that women in management positions are paid less than men. I find we are being well paid already."

Industry experts say another reason men have not been able to reach the same heights as women is that the market is flooded with handsome males who are unwilling to take on less glamorous work on their way to the top.

"Men will never reach the heights of women at this moment because they don't have that professionalism that women have," said French. "They will reach the levels of

women if they work on becoming less snobby."

French said that often, when a male model gets his first break, he starts to act too big for his boots. "He may do a campaign for Mr. (Giorgio) Armani and then he (thinks) he is a star."

"He starts to complain 'is this photographer good enough?' 'I don't like these clothes'," French said. "These men forget that a model is someone who is supposed to show off the garment."

But Lisa Ovadia, the booking director for Men At Fashion model management in Milan, said the

industry is changing rapidly and that the male supermodel could be around the corner.

"Since I started 12 years ago things have already changed. Magazines are becoming more and more interested in what men are doing," Ovadia told Reuters.

"French magazines and Italian magazines are doing pieces on the most beautiful men in the world and the men who make the most money. I think that men's bodies are an object of desire right now — they just need the media exposure."

Getting back to basics

For Palestine
 Edited by Jay Murphy
 New York: Writers and Readers Publishing, Inc.
 1993.
 262 pages, soft cover \$14.95

For Palestine was compiled while the negotiations begun at Madrid were in progress, but no results had emerged. It is a book with a purpose — intended to spark efforts to redress the dismal situation of Palestinians in the wake of the Gulf war. As the editor writes in the preface: "The world seems deaf and dumb to daily pleas of the Palestinian delegation... for an international force of protection for Palestinian civilians undergoing a stepped up Israeli assault and repression designed to break support for the peace talks" (p.1).

This message is hardly outdated in view of Israel's continued blockade of every small step towards Palestinian independence, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recent call for an international push to implement the 1993 Oslo accords. At a time when the justice of the Palestinian cause is all but drowned in daily news of Arafat and Rabin squabbling over the messy details of the autonomy agreement, it is useful to get back to basics. The 17 essays, four interviews and two poems included in For Palestine do just that. Dealing with a wide variety of topics related to the Question of Palestine, the book takes status of the Palestinian people's experience, and what their struggle has meant to others working to change U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The contributors to For Palestine include well-known scholars and political activists; many of their pieces were first published elsewhere. Most are Palestinians, Americans or Arab-Americans, but there are exceptions, such as the late Jean Genet and the Lebanese writer and leftist politician, Fawwaz Traboulsi. Four Hours in Shatila, Genet's highly personal description of wandering in the camp's alleys immediately after the September 1982 massacre, remains unrivaled in poetic expressiveness and moral impact. The same qualities are present in Traboulsi's poem, Beirut-Guernica, which juxtaposes the human experience of the 1982 siege of Beirut with Picasso's famous depiction of the Spanish Civil War. Sandwiched between these two is an interview with a Palestinian woman who participated in the PLO's defence of Beirut in 1982. Her

down-to-earth account of daily life during the siege is an effective complement to the more literary pieces of Genet and Traboulsi.

Most of the other essays focus either on the occupied territories or U.S. Middle East policy and how the question of Palestine is dealt with in America. Naseer H. Aruri's overview of the post-Gulf war situation was well chosen as the first essay, for it provides a backdrop for situating subsequent, more particular essays.

Unfortunately, some of the essays about the intifada are rather flat and lacking in originality, particularly Daoud Kuttab's The Path of No Return: An Overview of The Intifada. Despite the sweeping title, Kuttab's approach is highly selective; he comes close to reducing the intifada to the single dimension of being the prelude to the Madrid conference, thus neglecting numerous other dimensions. When recounting the causes of the intifada, he fails to mention the Gaza Strip except as "the stronghold of Islamic Jihad" (p. 95). This was hardly the whole story in 1987 when the intifada began in Gaza, and the Islamic forces were not the predominant ones.

Readers who see the intifada as a multi-dimensional, sometimes contradictory process, will find more food for thought in Hanan Ashrawi's essay on cultural revival, and Anita Vitullo's Palestinian Women: Several Steps Back.

Some of the most thought-provoking essays in For Palestine are those related to culture. Those who heard Kamal Boulatta speak at Darat Al Fanoun here in Amman last autumn, will be interested in his essay contrasting how Palestinian and Israeli artists, respectively, relate to space and nature in their works.

Censorship — a main obstacle to cultural creativity wherever it occurs — is the topic tackled by the American filmmaker Joan Mandell. Based on her own experience of making and distributing the documentary Gaza Ghetto, Mandell tells how "censorship is involved at every major stage of the filmmaking process" (p. 189). Not only was the film crew harassed by the Israeli army on location in Gaza but, upon returning to the U.S., Mandell writes: "I learned that I was involved in a war in this country — to redefine the limits of censorship" (p. 188). Gaza Ghetto was initially rejected by distribution agencies as being too pro-Palestinian, so Mandell eventually travelled herself to over 200 communities to show it.

For Palestine draws to a powerful conclusion with Noam Chomsky's scathing critique of U.S.-Israeli

rejection of all opportunities for peace over the years — until 1991, when they eyed the chance to dictate the conditions. Chomsky quotes Israeli journalist Danny Rubenstein's observation that the autonomy proposed by Israel and the U.S. for the Palestinians is like "a PoW camp, where the prisoners are 'autonomous' to cook their meals without interference and to organise cultural events" (p. 224). In Chomsky's estimation, the peace process begun in 1991 means that: "The peace process that the world has sought for many years can be consigned to the ash heap of history" (p. 229). The extensive historical documentation in Chomsky's essay, among others, makes For Palestine useful as a reference, as well as being an easily accessible review of the most recent decade of contemporary Palestinian history.

Sally Bland

Of political courage and good will

A Fire In Zion

By Mark Perry
 Morrow. (356 P)

A Fire In Zion offers an exceptional glimpse into the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, deep insight into the workings of both sides, and an almost accurate assessment of the real chances for peace.

Yet A Fire In Zion is far more than a haute-couture diplomatic garb. It tells the full story, in a down to earth factual narrative, of how two disparate and incongruous societies decided to make peace after a century of bloody pogroms. Drawing on exclusive interviews with such pivotal figures as PLO chief Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Perry goes beyond the headlines to reveal the stark realities of the machinations of realpolitik which actually brought the Palestinians and Israeli to the bargaining table at Oslo, Norway, and the signing of the peace agreement in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 13, 1993.

BOOK REVIEWS

Perry asks, "Will it work?" To find out "The transaction has yet to be concluded."

In pursuit of finding out a substantive answer, Perry was granted exclusive interviews by key Palestinian and Israeli negotiators, namely, Hanan Rabinovich, Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi.

Perry also sought out interviews with a host of ordinary citizens; imams, priests, rabbis, homemakers, professionals, farmers, students and soldiers.

Perry came to the conclusion that it was due to such queer twists in the games of power politics, diplomatic chicanery, Sophistry, and mutual exhaustion that both sides were prompted to transform their perceptions of the empirical issues at stake and of each other: Yasser Arafat and other moderates within the PLO were beginning to lose support in the Arab countries; especially after the schisms in their ranks as a result of the Gulf War. The intifada had dragged on for years, and impacted heavily on the attempted hegemony of Israeli occupation. The Israelis, for their part, feared losing their national unity and soul if they continued to rule over the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Israel has been created so that Jews would never again become victims, but not so that Jews themselves would become victimisers — besides, the erosion of moral support for Israel, by the international community, was beginning to tell.

At the end of A Fire In Zion, Perry concludes; will the one-hundred year war for the land of Palestine end? Will Palestinians and Israelis learn to live together?

There is no certain answer to these questions. Yet to enable both, Palestinians and Israelis, to predict the future, they must continue the arduous process of putting the past behind them, and to keep on honing the tenets of the peace process — for the peace process, is the last and only entree for Palestinians and Israelis. The road the peace process is strewn with stumbling blocks; both germane and put-up scenarios.

By definition, the peace process is designed to formulate a modus operandi with a view to harmonise it into a modus vivendi.

The peace process is a process. It is not an end in itself.

A Fire In Zion, is an absolutely riveting treatise on a subject that needs leaders of riveting tenacity of political courage and good will.

Ludwig W. Tamari

Want to learn a second language? Better start before puberty

By Daniel Q. Haney
 The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Learn a second language after age 12 and you'll almost certainly speak it with an accent, a study shows. But pick one up before age 8 and you may forget your native tongue.

Experts theorise that age 2 until puberty is the

ideal period to learn languages. After that, it becomes an increasingly frustrating, imperfect process.

Certainly many parents who have tried to learn a new language with their children have witnessed the dismaying ease with which youngsters can master the complexities of syntax and vocabulary.

Several studies, which were presented at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, delved into the conflicts between first and second languages.

Grace H. Yeni-Komshian of the University of Maryland presented research on 220 Korean immigrants who learned

English as children and young adults. Despite having lived in the United States an average of 15 years, some still spoke with an accent.

She found that no one had much trouble with their consonants, but vowels were a different matter. Those who learned English by age 10 or 11 got 90 per cent of

their vowels right. But those who started English by age 12 or 13 did substantially worse, and this ability dropped still more among those who learned it even later.

The earlier the better, it seems, as far as accents are concerned. She found that some who learned English as young as age 6 had slight accents.

Ms. Yeni-Komshian herself spoke three languages — Armenian, Arabic and French — as a child in Lebanon. She began studying English at age 10 but still has a mild accent, which she blames on the accent of her English teachers.

Her research also shows that the Koreans who

started English late speak better Korean than do those who learned it early. It appears that youngsters who start their second language after age 8 have a better chance of retaining their native language.

"It's almost 'easy come, easy go' during this period," she said.

Of those studied, only about 15 per cent could speak both English and Korean like natives. She said it appears that most bilingual people cannot be equally adept at speaking two languages.

Ms. Yeni-Komshian said her work fits with the prevailing theory that a critical age exists for learning languages. By

adolescence, the functional organisation of the brain is largely complete, making language acquisition a chore.

The University of South Florida's Winifred Strange, who also presented research on the topic, said that people who try to learn languages after adolescence tend to hear the new language with the accents of the old one.

She said that's why, for instance, someone who speaks Chinese mixes up L's and R's. So in the classic waiter's mangling, "fried rice" comes out "fired lice."

"They really sound the same to them," she said. "They cannot tell the dif-

ference between those two sounds."

Kimbrough Oller of the University of Miami said some believe that bilingual people may never truly be good at speaking either language because of the burden of learning duplicate vocabularies and grammar rules.

He studies youngsters who are learning English and Spanish at the same time and compares them with children who speak just one language. While the bilingual children functioned well in both languages, their vocabulary did lag somewhat, because some words they knew in only one language or the other.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CROSS-PURPOSES
 By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS

1. Males exclaim
2. Sings to a
3. Type of man
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Diagramless, 21 x 21
 By James Barrick

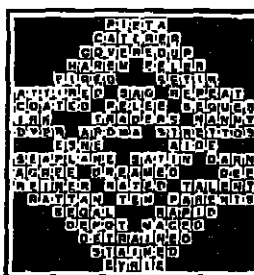
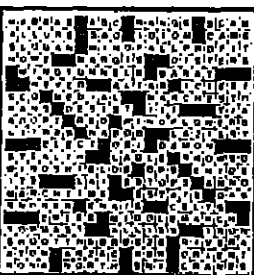
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Skiing, vacuum, aardvark, canoeing — words with odd vowel combinations — help spell trouble.
2. Trying to identify a couple of a new bird species, fledgling apertures: "two bees or not two bees?"
3. Weekend golfer plays usual round: two pars, eleven bogeys and five holes he would rather not think about.
4. Bird watcher without binoculars was one frustrated fellow.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JLMQ YLEBWS KBVC QRTDEQSS
 EQLCVWWSO WM CHTLS RSEW DRC JWNMQ
 IREBWS CERBERST RE. LC DQ KWQCS
 ILSE RE EWV CIQCS. — By Earl Ireland

2. PRAY, LS TLDG ILLE'G. DUCK, BLRNE DF
 ALGOKFTYK U NLRGE ALLY PLRUE
 DPAURGF IF HUG U STOUT. — By Ed Haddison

3. XPNLR DOGTPPTTYRC TRBDETFETYE SPNZZO
 YLVDU SPREUD TK APUTYTD YGTEVTEC.
 PRT RFX UGD'U APUTYTDZED YGLY
 UGD'U TRBDETFE. — By Duane H. McGow

4. PRIDA HYSTAMP NMIS U WIR NYMA
 NUNANFOOL: TIS'R BUDA US UPW IN
 LIFMFAON. — By Frank N. Stein

'Eccentrics live better, longer'

LONDON (AFP) — An Edinburgh researcher has found that eccentrics who follow their own lights undaunted by what others think of them tend to be smarter and to live longer and better than their conformist contemporaries.

Strangers to stress, according to neuro-psychologist David Weeks, the oddballs of this world pay far fewer visits to the doctor than do the straight — arrows and are far happier with their lot.

Nearly 70 per cent of eccentrics are first-born sons or daughters and realise that they are somehow "different" from the age of eight, Dr. Weeks says in his book *Eccentrics* — 10 years in the making.

More than a few eminent scientists, artists and statesmen have been eccentric.

For example, the inventor of the telephone, Graham Bell, was determined to teach his dog to talk, according to Dr. Weeks.

Albert Einstein loved to stick his tongue out at photographers while Benjamin Franklin walked nude in his garden for what he said were health reasons.

Dr. Weeks' research also focused on contemporary non-conformists recruited through classified ads. Working on such a subject in Britain proved

to be an immense advantage.

While Britain offers a robust democracy and protection for freedom of expression, it nonetheless remains rigidly class-conscious, Dr. Weeks contends.

"If people can't develop vertically, they find ways of doing so horizontally," he found.

Robin Hood is a particular favourite of eccentrics, one of whom in Britain has received legal permission to assume the outlaw's name. A former installer of cash distributors, he lives today in medieval dress in Sherwood Forest.

Another individual studied by Dr. Weeks is Marvin Staples who only walks backwards.

Then there is John Slater, a former Marine commando, truck driver, ship steward, travelling salesman, insurance agent and painter who agreed to spend six months in a cage at the London Zoo in order to raise money for pandas.

Later a London tourist guide, he named his dog Tiny president of a company he formed — before he himself went off to live in a cave near the sea.

Dr. Weeks insists that most eccentrics have perfectly sound minds. Only eight per cent of those tested in his sample re-

vealed signs of schizophrenia. The rate among the "normal" population is 15 per cent.

These are people "who take a boundless joy in life," Dr. Weeks says, who possess "enormous

energy" and a "healthy irreverence."

They are "utterly harmless" and look on the world with "decency, tolerance and respect for different views and different people."

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A Hindu ruler.
2. A citadel in Moscow enclosing a cathedral, a palace, etc.
3. A store-room for house-hold provisions.
4. Sharing a meal which has not been specially prepared for guests.
5. The Vatican.
6. A miscellaneous collection of things bought or sold together.
7. A small Spanish horse.

★★★★★

PUZZLES

SCENIC ACROSTIC
 RAFT
 NAME
 ENGLISH
 BELLS
 BOWLS

ANGEL FALLS

JWA head, 6 executives resign

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The President of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) and six members of its administrative committee who have been threatening to quit for the past two weeks resigned on Wednesday. The JWA general assembly will convene on an extraordinary session on April 7 to elect a new body.

Four members of the JWA's administrative body were absent from Wednesday's calm but short meeting. Basma Nsour, Yousef Damra, Yousef Abdul Aziz, and Zahair Abu Shayeb, who have been involved in running conflict with the resignees, did not show up.

Mu'nes Razzaz, the outgoing president, said he was

forced to resign because of the tense atmosphere and constant squabbles that dominated the meetings of the administrative body.

"We have not achieved anything for a whole year," Mr. Razzaz said. "We should give way for a new and harmonious administration."

One of the resignees, Hisham Gharaibeh, is expected to nominate himself for presidency. Mr. Razzaz, who supports Mr. Gharaibeh's nomination, said the coming elections will be different in terms of techniques and tactics to avoid future problems. He said the elections will be conducted on a bloc basis. Until now, nominees ran as independents.

"We could have had our

way and taken the decisions we want," said Mr. Razzaz, who has majority support in the JWA's administrative committee. "But this does not work out in a writers association."

Mr. Razzaz, a daily columnist at Al-Dustour daily, said the weekly meetings of the administrative body were plagued by constant fights and clashes over the issue of normalisation of cultural ties with Israel.

"No work has been done on cultural issues," he said. "We need a more effective leadership."

Fakhri Ka'war, JWA's former president and president of the Union of Arab Writers, is also expected to nominate himself for presidency.

Prince Hassan: People, including refugees, make or break peace

The following is the text of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address to the UNRWA informal meeting of major donors and host governments that started yesterday in Amman.

IT IS A PLEASURE to address this informal meeting, held by UNRWA with representatives from all sides: Donors, host countries, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the issues arising from the peace process, and to make a few suggestions.

The Palestinian refugee problem has always been one of the main elements of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan has been directly affected, by dint of both geographical proximity and historical legacy. With its semi-arid landscape and very limited resources, natural and otherwise, my country has hosted three waves of involuntary migration. Jordan has had to accommodate more than one million extra people as a result of conflict in the region.

Realising the immense scale of the demographic component of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the international community established UNRWA in 1949. Jordan's partnership with UNRWA dates back to its inception in the aftermath of the first wave of Palestinian refugees to Jordan. I refer to our relationship as one of partnership, for we have worked together very closely through the years. Jordan accommodates the major bulk of the refugee population registered by UNRWA. It hosts nearly two thirds of all the listed refugees residing outside the West Bank and Gaza. 39.1 per cent of all registered refugees reside in Jordan; about 38.4 per cent reside in the West Bank and Gaza.

We have come a long way towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict since the Madrid peace conference of October 1991. However, although the negotiations have so far touched upon the refugee problem, they have yet to find a satisfactory solution. The Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel stipulated that the issue of refugees would be addressed in the permanent status negotiations. Jordan's peace treaty with Israel accordingly lays out only principles for a resolution, and does not address the issue in substantive depth.

Article 8 of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, which deals about what should be done with them and youngsters are seldom taken out. In the central city of Multan, there is an 11-year-old boy who has been in jail since birth, she said.

"The diet is not good. The children are totally isolated socially. Most have no idea of what's going on outside the jail," Ms. Jilani said.

There are no schools for the children and in many cases they do not receive proper medical care. Saima, who has been in jail for two months, had the sniffles and a cough, as did many of the others.

Imprisoned women in many countries keep their children with them. But the problems facing youngsters are particularly acute in an impoverished country like Pakistan.

"Imagine their life," said Ifkhar Hussain, a psychologist at Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad. "The guards are never very kind. The women — their mothers — are unhappy and crying all the time. It's all very traumatic for children."

Saima said that her only toy is a raggedy old doll and that she must fight to keep the other children from taking over her little corner of the jail compound, a sandy spot next to a 3-metre-high wall.

Kamran Rizvi, who heads a human rights committee set up by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, says the government wants to stop jailing children.

"I am totally against keeping women in prison with their children," Mr. Rizvi said. "But where can we keep them? There should be a separate institution for the children. Jails have a very negative psychological effect."

Mr. Rizvi said the whole prison system needs to be

with refugees and displaced persons, recognises the magnitude and the human dimensions of the problem. The commitment is there to find a settlement in accordance with international law. The modality through which such a settlement can be realised is stipulated in the treaty through the following channels.

— In the case of displaced persons, through a quadripartite committee representing Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt and Israel.

— In the case of the refugees, in the multilateral and through tripartite or bilateral negotiations simultaneous with Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Jordan, being mindful of the human dimension, ensured that the treaty requires the parties to seek to alleviate human suffering. It also asks that the U.N. and other programmes of assistance be continued pending a final resolution. Any reduction or cut-backs in UNRWA's provision of essential services at this point, no matter what the reason might be, can only backfire on the peace process that has been made.

On the contrary, it is vital that UNRWA be supported and assisted more than ever in this delicate transitional phase. The agency has been instrumental in providing for the basic, everyday human needs of the refugees. In addition, it has already established sound structures for channelling assistance to health, education and social services. Such assistance is therefore both necessary and possible.

All of these things are vitally important, yet they are not an alternative to a solution that strikes the necessary balance between the rights of refugees and the responsibilities that states owe them, on the one hand, and the need to find creative answers to what is, by definition, a delicate and composite problem, on the other.

As we move from peace-making to peace-building, it is essential to address the human requirements of the peoples concerned. Last November, Amman hosted a Roundtable on the Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process, attended

ing steps to promote domestic and foreign investment, and to encourage joint venture. Economic growth will create new jobs, reducing the rate of unemployment, alleviating poverty, and providing solid economic foundations for the future of the Middle East.

UNRWA can do a great deal to help make this vision a reality, but it will need international support, and it will need to plan ahead with a realistic time-frame. Human Resources Development must be the top priority for the region, although it cannot substitute for a principled solution to the refugee problem. Coordination between donors, host countries and organisations such as UNRWA will be vital if we are to maximise the opportunities. Failure would be catastrophic for the refugees, and will also have severe repercussions for host countries. It is worth bearing in mind that the largest age group in both the refugee camps and the host countries is 15-25. Further social unravelling must be

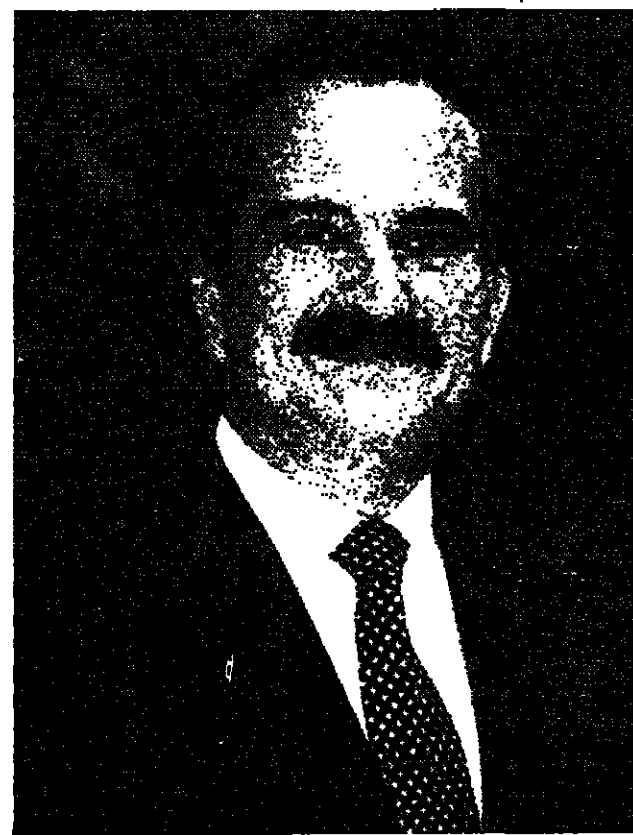
avoided, for the combination of economic and demographic pressures mean that the Middle East will remain potentially volatile, even given a negotiated peace.

The donor countries are well aware of Jordan's economic difficulties. We have adopted a medium-term adjustment programme, to bring about fiscal and monetary stability and a structural transformation in the economy. Under such circumstances it will be difficult to shoulder UNRWA's services, although moral responsibility dictates otherwise.

In 1991, Jordan accommodated 70,000 student returnees from the Gulf. This demographic influx placed considerable strains on our educational system, and in consequence, our educational reform programme suffered a major setback. There are now around 152,000 UNRWA pupils in Jordan, and its 201 over-crowded schools cater for double shifts. Being involved myself in the education reform programme, I have to recognise and commend UNRWA's contribution, despite its limited resources, to the quality and quantity of education services offered to the refugees in Jordan.

This meeting coincides with U.N. World Summit for Social Development, currently being held in Copenhagen. The triangular relationship between poverty, unemployment and social disintegration will no doubt be a major theme at that meeting, as it must be here. The problems associated with this relationship permeate not only the refugee camps, but the countries of the region, and lie at the root of the many of our difficulties. I would therefore suggest that assistance to UNRWA, as it plans for the coming years, must be in harmony with the overall vision of a better future for all the peoples of the region.

I would like to conclude by expressing Jordan's support for UNRWA's five year perspective. We hope that concrete steps are taken in the meantime to resolve the refugee problem in a manner that meets their expectations and compensates them for their suffering. For irrespective of the work of politicians, it will ultimately be ordinary people, refugees and displaced persons included, who determine whether the peace process succeeds or whether it fails.



"The Palestinian refugee problem has always been one of the main elements of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan has been directly affected by dint of both geographical proximity and historical legacy"

by His Excellency Mr. Ilter Turkmen. The discussions were frank and constructive, although not always as optimistic as we might wish. The participants recognised that for peace to be enduring, its benefits must be felt by those on the ground. In this context, regional discrepancies and disparities must be balanced out. These include key indicators such as income levels, education and health conditions, and technical know-how.

A recent World Bank report notes that income levels are over \$10,000 per capita in Israel, a major aid recipient, while that of the Mashreq Arabs is no more than \$800. At a time when the industrialised countries are talking about an "information superhighway", we are struggling to secure basic education for our peoples.

But peace brings with it new opportunities for the region. The prospect of stability can help to generate a real peace dividend. In order to capitalise upon this, governments are planning and taking

steps to promote domestic and foreign investment, and to encourage joint venture. Economic growth will create new jobs, reducing the rate of unemployment, alleviating poverty, and providing solid economic foundations for the future of the Middle East.

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UNRWA launches bid to bridge deficit

(Continued from page 1)

this year, we won't be able to do what we were doing last year. We have no operational reserves left, so we hope they (the donors) react accordingly," he said.

But following the first day's meeting, Mr. Turkmen said he felt that representatives of donor nations were in favour of an "undiminished continuation of UNRWA's services."

As delegates of 30 donor countries and host governments launched the meeting, representatives of UNRWA's area staff staged a strike in an appeal to donors to continue their support for the agency (see story on page 3).

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti as saying he had urged the inter-

national community to increase its aid to UNRWA and Jordan, to assist them in their responsibilities for Palestinian refugees and displaced persons.

As of this year UNRWA has presented donor nations with a "five-year planning horizon" to coincide with the schedule laid down by the September 1993 declaration of principles signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

The theory of the plan is to project expenditures over those five years, to label priorities and then present to donor countries the financial requirements.

In the past the agency submitted an annual or bi-annual budget to donors.

At the opening session of

the two-day conference which continues today, Mr. Turkmen said, "I believe that this meeting will be a watershed... UNRWA has reached a crossroads and there are serious issues to be discussed."

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the meeting, Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority reaffirmed strong support for UNRWA.

Donors' "commitment to UNRWA enhances the Palestinian Authority's strategic option for peace," he said. "Strong support for UNRWA is our highest priority." "We would hate to see services curtailed. We would like to see you continue generously supporting the agency."

Christopher launches new Mideast mission

(Continued from page 1)

Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Syria would not make concessions to achieve peace with Israel and insisted on the need to boost the country's defences.

He said peace accords which were "not based on law and justice neither guarantee peace for the strong party nor security for the weaker one."

Israel, relying on its military force, is trying to make gains via the negotiations, but it should be aware that military superiority does not remain constant.

Mr. Khaddam said Syria needed to "bolster its defensive capabilities."

"Any peace imposed by force is not peace, and any peace based on concessions cannot survive," Mr. Khaddam said in a speech marking the 32nd anniversary of the ruling Baath Party's assumption of power.

Earlier Syria urged Mr. Christopher to come armed with new ideas and scorned Israel's latest offer of a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"We have to make of building our national shield a national responsibility which we should approach without hesitation," Mr. Khaddam said Wednesday.

"Despite the accords Israel has struck with three Arab parties, it is going ahead with promoting its fighting ability in spite of its current arms

arsenal and huge military industries," he added.

Mr. Khaddam said Syria was as justified in boosting its defence as Israel.

"If Israel goes on compiling weapons for fear of remotely located Iran and Libya, how could we overlook the need to build our defensive capabilities while (Israel) is close to us and occupying parts of our territory," Mr. Khaddam said.

A Russian defence envoy, Konstantin Kobets, arrived in Damascus Tuesday on a seven-day visit to discuss military cooperation. He met with Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass.

Moscow was Syria's chief arms supplier and political ally before the Soviet Union's disintegration.

Newspaper prices, ad charges to go up

(Continued from page 12)

newsprint was upward.

The crunch on newsprint came when many producers around the world faced declining prices and a glut in the market and slowly halted production or shifted to alternate industries since the early 90s.

Another factor was a decline in the output of paper up in the wake of new environmental policies

adopted by many governments.

Ironically, the turn away from paper production came at a time when newspaper industry around the world was picking up, particularly with new publications springing up in the eastern bloc and the ex-Soviet republics and elsewhere in the Third World.

According to newsprint agents, the shortage has led to the creation of a "parallel" market where privileged

dealers dictate their own prices.

Most of the companies in Europe and North and South America report that their entire production for the next two years have already been booked. In most cases, the companies have committed themselves to supplying the material but the prices are subject to fluctuation, meaning that the producers reserve the right to demand a higher price when the actual delivery is made.

Israel unveils 'separation' plan

(Continued from page 1)

using as a de facto foreign ministry. Last month, for example, visiting heads of the European Union raised a row by holding meetings ere.

Mr. Arad's document said at the government was taking into the "realities on

the ground" as well as the "implications" of enforcing the law in the case of the Orient House.

Palestinians say the issue is at the centre of the peace process with Israel. They argue the Orient House is independent of the Palestinian Authority and the restrictions on it.

"We have always said that

the closing of the Orient House will jeopardise the peace process," Palestinian negotiator Ziad Abu Zayyad told reporters.

Peace Watch, an Israeli group monitoring the peace process with the Palestinians, said there are seven autonomy-related institutions operating in Jerusalem (see page 2).

Informant testifies

(Continued from page 12)

Prosecutors questioned Mr. Salem Tuesday about his history. Mr. Salem testified that he began lying to impress people or an 18-year military career in Egypt, when he ne to the United States I found himself driving s, stocking shelves and rking as a security guard.

"I was like a big shot in pt and all of a sudden I ame just an immigrant," Salem said.

He testified that he began lying information to FBI nt Nancy Floyd in 1991 y bragging that he was Egypt's military intelligence agency — he actually a technical officer — and w Libyan leader Muam-Qadhafi, Iraq's Presi-Saddam Hussein and g Hussein. He knew none hese leaders.

He said he also told Ms. d he "knew of military atomic capabilities of r countries," though e of the information he

passed on was true.

The rotund Salem, wearing glasses and a dark blue suit, had kept his hands folded in front of him until he began recounting his deceit. Then he clenched or rubbed his hands together.

"He's not going to survive cross-examination," said Lynne Stewart, the sheikh's lawyer. "He's completely changed all the facts."

After the 1990 assassination of militant Rabbi Meir Kahane in a New York City hotel, Mr. Salem said he was approached by the FBI and asked to infiltrate extremist groups. He said he declined until October 1991, when he needed money.

One of Mr. Salem's first tasks for the group he infiltrated was to create mailing labels for organisations. He testified that he immediately turned the list over to the FBI, which made the labels for him.

He said he was paid \$500 a week from 1991 until July 1992, when relations broke off between him and the FBI.

Dollar stabilises a little

(Continued from page 1)

helped halt a slide in the dollar that has seen it plunge to ever-new record lows since Friday.

The European moves and Greenspan's comments came after Japan complained that the United States was not doing enough to protect its own currency, as the dollar plunged overnight in Asia to record lows of 1.3450 marks and 88.75 yen.

The signs that there was still some life left in the dollar encouraged some stock markets, and in London, the Footsie index tacked on 15.1 points or 0.5 per cent to end at 2,992.1 points, while the Paris bourse managed a moderate gain of 0.47 per cent, after suffering a 1.39 per cent loss Tuesday.

But the Frankfurt market remained nervous, with the DAX index dropping 1.37 per cent.

Pakistani children live a nightmare in jail

By Kathy Gannon
The Associated Press

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — Saima Ahmed, age 5, huddles beneath a smelly woolen blanket to protect herself from the winter chill and wonders if she will ever leave Adiala jail.

"I go to sleep at night and I think what if I have to live here for the rest of my life, and I cry," she says shyly.

Saima, like hundreds of children in Pakistan, has gone to jail with her mother, Nazreen, who is awaiting trial on theft charges and could receive a four-year term if convicted. In their stark, cramped cell devoid of furnishings, the children outnumber the women, 13 to 11.

Disgraced and destitute, jailed Pakistani women routinely take their young children with them because there is no alternative, said Hina Jilani of the Independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

The group estimates about 300 children are in jail with their mothers.

Orphanages are scarce, and if the children were simply left behind it is quite possible they would be used as child labourers, a common practice in Pakistani workshops.

"If they don't go to jail with their mothers, they could end up on the street begging or being sold," Ms. Jilani said.

The children's fathers are often in jail, too, or have abandoned their families. Ms. Jilani said many of the women are in jail on charges brought by their husbands, who either want to marry again or have left the country and do not want their wives free while they are gone.

The law says children should be removed from imprisoned mothers at age seven, but it says nothing

about what should be done with them and youngsters are seldom taken out. In the central city of Multan, there is an 11-year-old boy who has been in jail since birth, she said.

"The diet is not good. The children are totally isolated socially. Most have no idea of what's going on outside the jail," Ms. Jilani said.

There are no schools for the children and in many cases they do not receive proper medical care. Saima, who has been in jail for two months, had the sniffles and a cough, as did many of the others.

Imprisoned women in many countries keep their children with them. But the problems facing youngsters are particularly acute in an impoverished country like Pakistan.

"Imagine their life," said Ifkhar Hussain, a psychologist at Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad. "The guards are never very kind. The women — their mothers — are unhappy and crying all the time. It's all very traumatic for children."

Saima said that her only toy is a raggedy old doll and that she must fight to keep the other children from taking over her little corner of the jail compound, a sandy spot next to a 3-metre-high wall.

Kamran Rizvi, who heads a human rights committee set up by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, says the government wants to stop jailing children.

"I am totally against keeping women in prison with their children," Mr. Rizvi said. "But where can we keep them? There should be a separate institution for the children. Jails have a very negative psychological effect."

Mr. Rizvi said the whole prison system needs to be

overhauled. Prisons in Pakistan are overcrowded, poorly maintained and packed with people awaiting trial, he said.

Ms. Bhutto's government is preparing a new law aimed at children younger than 12 who are in prison, including about 1,700 unaccompanied youngsters who face charges on their own ranging from loitering to murder.

It remains to be seen if

there will be any improvements. The government often talks about curing such problems, but rarely comes up with the money. Even Mr. Rizvi concedes the government is short of resources.

"Our problem is pushing the government to spend money," said Ms. Jilani. "Things are moving forward — slowly. That's something."



An agreement was signed on Monday the 6th of March 1995 between Middle East Telecom and Electronics (METE), the representative of MCI in Jordan and other Arab countries, and Jordan Payment Services Co., (VISA), whereby METE will issue free MCI cards to VISA card holders and VISA will collect the charges on behalf of METE from the users. For further information on MCI service please call METE

Tel.: 668424
or write to P.O. BOX 3089 Amman
11181 - Jordan

Dollar supremacy threatened, but no successor seen

TOKYO (R) — The dollar's supremacy as the world's key currency is under threat after its hammering on the money markets, but neither the mark nor the yen look likely to usurp the top spot for now.

Economists and monetary officials said in Tokyo Wednesday that the dollar's status had been badly shaken by its plunge against the German and Japanese currencies.

But for policy and economic reasons, neither of these currencies was likely to take

over the dollar's role as anchor of global markets any time soon, they said.

"The recent dollar collapse implies that the dollar's supremacy is seriously challenged," said C.H. Kwan, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute Ltd.

The dollar has been viewed as a focus of stability and a standard measure of value in world markets. It has comprised the vast majority of central banks' foreign reserves, has been the main currency used for foreign

trade by many countries, and has been seen as a "safe haven" during times of instability.

But the dollar's recent plunge, which took it to post-World War II lows of 88.75 yen and 1.3450 marks in Tokyo Wednesday, has seriously damaged this role.

Analysts said more and more nations, including cash-rich Asian and Middle Eastern central banks, prefer to hold the mark as a reserve currency, and have been reducing the proportion of their dollar holdings amid a lack of

confidence in U.S. monetary and fiscal policy.

This phenomenon "reflects their confidence in the Bundesbank's policies, which target medium- to long-term objectives with top priority on price stability," a senior German monetary official said in Tokyo.

However, the Bundesbank has never asked for the mark to assume the role of a reserve currency, he said.

Analysts doubted that the German central bank would be prepared to take on such a

responsibility, which might force the Bundesbank to consider global monetary trends, not only Germany's economy, when setting policy.

Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer has said the country of the key currency should assume responsibility not only for itself but also for foreign investors.

"If the mark is held by many others, it will be exposed to more volatility," said a senior Japanese bank economist. "This implies more diffi-

culty in controlling the mark's value, which in turn would make it tougher for the Bundesbank to achieve its ultimate goal of price stability," he said.

As for the yen, economists said the Japanese currency had a long way to go to attain the quality demanded of the key global currency.

For one thing, the yen money market has not yet become fully efficient and functional with rules that harmonise with other major financial centres, the analysts said.

"The market's trust in the Bank of Japan's policies has been weak since the early 1990s, when the economic bubble finally burst," said a senior economist at a Japanese brokerage.

A critical delay in credit tightening was a factor behind Japan's asset inflation in the late 1980s, which was followed by a plunge in asset prices as the bubble burst, he said.

Economists said that while the dollar held key currency status, the United States was to some extent protected from mistakes in its economic policies.

"The United States has been failing to put in place convincing policies to rein in its swelling deficits since the mid-1980s, because the dollar was able to continue attracting global capital," Mr. Kwan of Nomura said.

As the dollar's key currency status fades, however, the United States has only two options to continue financing its budget and trade deficits — tightening credit or issuing bonds in foreign currencies such as the yen, he said.

The dollar's share of foreign exchange reserves held by all countries fell to 61.4 per cent at the end of 1993 from 79.4 per cent in 1975, the International Monetary Fund said in an annual report.

Meanwhile, the share held by the mark rose to 16.1 per cent from 6.3 per cent, while the Japanese yen rose to 9.0 per cent from 0.5 per cent, it said.

KIA: Dollar will recover

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) believes the U.S. dollar will recover shortly because its fall has no basis in fundamental economic factors, an official of the state investment institution said Wednesday. "We feel the present currency fluctuation is short-term. Fundamental factors will prevail," the official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters. "Currency movements at the moment are not based on economic factors but on technical and speculative factors. We feel central banks will eventually be in a position to assist in a correction," the official said in a telephone interview. "This turmoil in the currency markets we are seeing will be adjusted in the next few days."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 9, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you comprehend the ideas and needs of associates you can then carry through effectively today in gaining their backing. Seek outside help if you still have questions on the matter.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have some good ideas for economising this morning. Make a campaign of action, and then go ahead with it. So don't procrastinate. Seek help from fellow associates if you get stymied.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to please a loved one today before getting involved in a heavy workload. Work at a regulated pace for best results and efficiency but don't forget to give yourself a break.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Improve home conditions before you consider a social invitation this evening. Take your time in reaching a decision. Don't be impulsive.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't neglect answering correspondence or you invite trouble. If you have made a promise to anyone, be sure to keep it or problems occur.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your plans will be better if you contact the proper person early today for advice. Don't put off any longer making the necessary repairs to your home, or more damage could occur.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan early how to gain personal aims and then go after them in a positive way. Most people who could help you in the future, not those who are mixed in the past.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) An ideal day to make plans to gain your personal aims and then put your efforts to work. Think of loved ones first and you will always be ahead.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Have those talks with others that can be helpful to your business and personal lives this morning and spend the afternoon and evening in the company of good friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A big wig is willing to support you in a career affair. Good friends can also be helpful. Don't neglect credit affairs this afternoon which need to be handled.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study new conditions you want to set up and then contact higher ups who can give you the right support. Start planning now for a trip that you want to take in the future.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget the social obligations today and concentrate on unfinished projects. Get more information on newcomers before you try to deal with them. They may know things you don't.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 10, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study every angle of your financial affairs today and set up a sensible plan for the days ahead. Think of loved ones, especially where children are involved.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Enjoy the company of old friends this morning and make new ones who can help make your life richer. Be wide awake to new opportunities and alert to any eventualities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Show your finest talents at the task you are doing this morning and get excellent benefits from it. Don't spend money faster than it comes in. Economise!

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be good friends and relieve tensions you have been under for a long time. Be careful not to exploit friends this afternoon or you will lose them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan more time for home improvement and bring more happiness there. Study a plan well before putting it into operation. Go out this evening with someone close.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Have talks with partners that bring more accord in the morning and expect benefits to follow. Handle any communications matters wisely and efficiently.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to add appreciably to present income if you take advantage of opportunities presenting themselves this morning. Go along with the programme this afternoon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't waste time on a project that doesn't have the approval of higher ups. Be careful not to embarrass and associate this afternoon or you may regret it.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Meet problems as they arise and stop worrying needlessly. You have the support of friends today and your relatives in any situation troubling you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Good friends will help you gain a desired wish, even if they are temporal. Entertain them later but spend within your means.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a lot of enthusiasm today and you are able to accomplish much. Be sure to handle credit affairs wisely and you will have the best of all things.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) New situations arise this morning that could help you advance. You learn a good deal if you didn't know before. Share this information with associates.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

Wallenius Lines Receives Quality Certification

Wallenius Lines — as the first shipping company in the world — has been awarded Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance's quality certificates for ISO 9002 and the ISM Code. The certification, awarded for quality in ship management and operation of a fleet of Swedish flag vessels, for the safe operation of ships and for pollution prevention, encompasses both land-based and marine organisation sectors.

Wallenius has received the first quality certification for ISO 9002 in combination with the ISM Code, to be issued by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) in London. The certification for the safe operation of ships and for pollution prevention encompasses all 13 Swedish-registered vessels as well as sectors of the office organisation, that is to say the departments of ship management, ship operations and cargo-handling.

Wallenius Lines has thus become the first shipping company in the world — and the first car carrier — to receive certification for ISO 9002 and the ISM Code from Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance. LRQA is the respected subsidiary of the classification and inspection society, Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

"We have always given priority to quality, safety and concern for the environment," says Christer Olsson, the President of

We are the first shipping company in the world ...



... to have been approved by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Limited to the following quality management system standards: ISO 9002:1994, EN ISO 9002:1994, SS-EN ISO 9002:1994 and the ISM Code.

We have always given priority to quality, safety and concern for the environment. Therefore it is very satisfying to have received the confirmation of Lloyd's Register that we meet the demands of the IMO convention regarding the safe

operation of the vessels. Wallenius Lines pioneered shipments of inspected vehicles 1958 and is today the biggest Car and Truck Carrier in Europe.

The ISM Code (International Safety Management — IMO resolution 741/18) deals with the importance of crew and safety routines for marine safety, and it complements certification in accordance with the ISO 9002 standard, which primarily emanates from customer demands for a quality supplier. The code is based on the knowledge that people and technology must function together. The certification encompasses safety and the en-

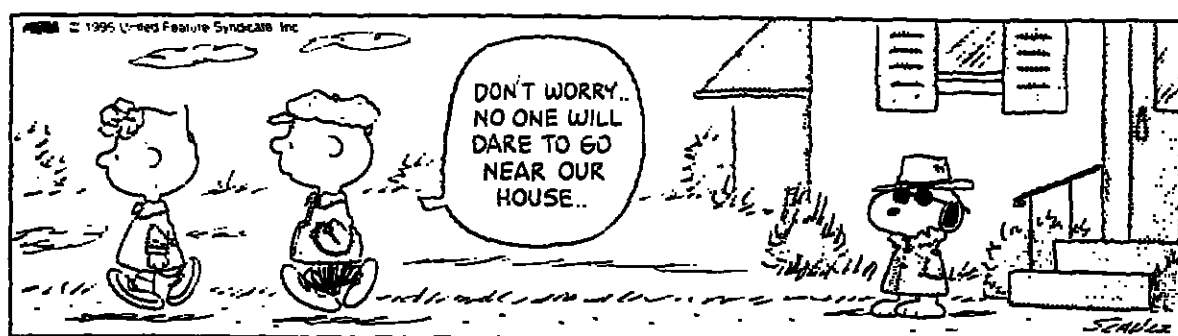
vironment as well as the handling of, and the division of responsibility for, regulations and routines aboard ship and ashore in accordance with stated national and international legislation. The ISM Code will become mandatory for passenger and tanker vessels in 1998 and for dry cargo vessels, which includes Wallenius vessels, by the year 2002.

At a ceremony that took place in Wallenius office in Stockholm on February 10th, 1995, Mr. P.C.K. O'Ferrall, Chairman of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, presented the certificates to the company.

Wallenius Lines is the biggest car transport shipping company in Europe with about 850,000 vehicles transported in worldwide traffic. The company is a leading carrier on the following trades: Far East — Europe, Europe — North America, North America — Europe, Europe-Middle/Far East, North America — Far East and Europe — Australia. The company's customers are the auto manufacturers of the world.

T. Gargour & Fils are Jordan's agents for Wallenius Lines. During 1994, Wallenius vessels carried 2123 cars to Aqaba constituting around 63 per cent of the total number of 3345 cars shipped to Aqaba from the North Continent and thus placing Wallenius Lines on top of all car-carriers serving Aqaba from the North Continent.

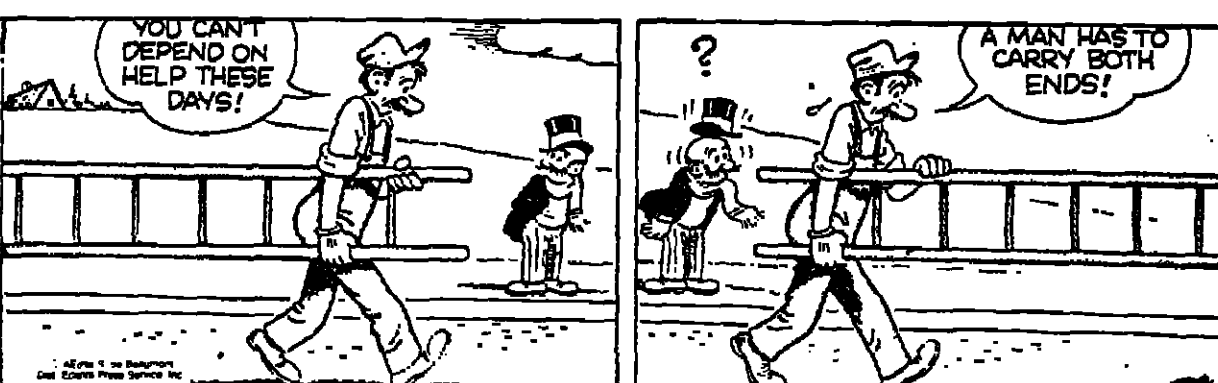
Peanuts



Andy Capp

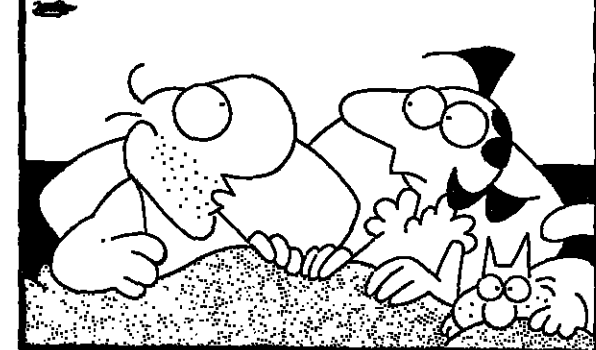


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HATIF

WAHSS

CUGATH

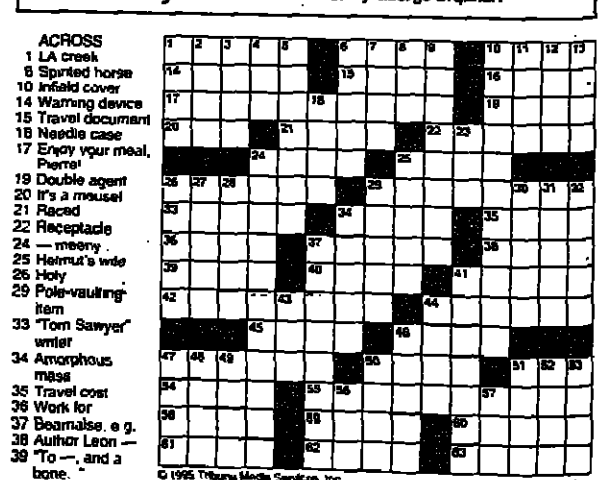
THINEW

Now arrange the circled letters to form the picture shown, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "FOILED HIM"

Yesterday's Jumbles: FINAL DINER MARVEL CROTCH
Answer: What the fencer did to his opponent — "FOILED HIM"

THE Daily Crossword by George Ughurt



ACROSS
1 LA creek
6 Sprinkled horse
10 Inside cover
14 Warning device
15 Travel document
18 Needle case
17 Enjoy your meal
19 Double agent
20 It's a mouse!
21 Paced
22 Rehearsal
24 — misery
25 — — —
26 Hey
29 Pole-vaulter
30 "Tom Sawyer" writer
34 Amorphous mass
36 Travel cost
37 Work for
38 Beardless e.g.
39 Author Leon —
40 "To —", and a bone
40 Archduke's journey
41 Conical
42 Told a
44 Clergy member
45 Small rail
46 Paralytic tool
47 Not productive
50 Out of the wind
51 Used to be
54 Lamb's pen
55 Sings you
56 Stale you
58 Warbled
59 Yore
60 Israeli — Mer
61 Drive, audible
62 Glassware
63 Penetrate
DOWN
1 — Rush
2 Lobster ingredient
3 Unit
4 Openings
5 Indefinite number
6 TV actor Brooks
7 The — of
8 — (Stravinsky)
9 — was saying
10 Languishing state
11 Time take
12 Regulation
13 What?
14 Duck's mite
15 Alliance
16 acronyms
17 Line by Thomas
18 Campbell
19 Dress
20 Place
21 On one's toes
22 Gem weight
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Business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Marketplace of Wihdat Camp gets facelift

★ THE MUNICIPALITY of Greater Amman gave the main square in Al Wihdat Camp a facelift by removing all stalls and banning barrows from the camp's central market. Street vendors were given a new site, near Um Al Hiran cemetery and the taxi terminal for southern regions, which is large enough to accommodate 400 stalls and barrows. Shopowners hailed the municipality's action noting that street vendors were negatively affecting their businesses since they paid no taxes, rents and electricity and water charges. "I can say that Al Wihdat has taken a qualitative and civilized step after it was like the Zaqra incinerator apart from being also a playground for gangsters who harassed women passing in the area," one merchant said (Al Ra'i).

★ AN OFFICIAL announcement will be made next week declaring the Jordanian dinar a convertible currency for "current" purposes such as payment for imports and receipts of exports, but not for "capital" transactions. According to a senior Central Bank official, the World Bank has approved of the step, which will boost the confidence in the Jordanian currency and help attract more foreign investment. The official differentiated between the terms "convertible" and "floating" by explaining that convertibility means lifting all controls on bringing in or taking out foreign currencies for "current" purposes whereas floating means pricing a currency freely against foreign currencies in accordance to market demand and supply (Al Aswaq).

★ THE INCOME Tax Department has called on all taxpayers who have not submitted their self-assessment forms for 1994 to do so before the end of March to benefit from a two per cent discount of the tax value. End of April is the last date to submit the forms before a 1.5 per cent a month fine is imposed on the tax amount (Al Ra'i).

★ THE SULTANATE of Oman is seeking to employ a large number of Jordanian doctors in various specialties, especially in the field of heart surgery (Al Dustour).

★ A JORDANIAN company that manufactures refrigerators is supplying a Yemeni company with 1,500 refrigerators. Over the past few days, 108 refrigerators were shipped. The deal was concluded through the efforts of the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation which offered to help any Jordanian industrialist promote his products in outside markets (Al Ra'i).

★ INFORMATION obtained from various sources indicate that Rafia Industrial will distribute dividends at 20 per cent, the Jordan Electric Power Co. at 12 per cent; the Arab Paper Converting and Trading at 10 per cent and the Jordan Pipes Manufacturing at 15 per cent (Al Aswaq).

★ THE MINISTRY of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will start building a large complex in downtown Amman at the beginning of next year. The complex, which was originally planned for 23 floors but later brought down to 15 floors, will be built on a 1,600-square-metre land on Jaqf Al Sail Street and will include a car park, rest rooms, a modern produce market and over 70 commercial shops. The project is estimated to cost JD 18 million with the finance to come from Islamic banks and other Islamic institutions. The ministry is financing investment projects under implementation at a cost of JD 50 million (Al Aswaq).

Conoco oil deal with Iran not helpful, White House says

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The White House, caught by surprise with the announcement of an unprecedented oil and gas deal between Tehran and the U.S. company Conoco, said Tuesday it was "not a helpful development."

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said the deal did not appear to violate the law but he acknowledged it undercut U.S. policy of pressuring other countries to refrain from selling sensitive equipment and technology to Iran.

Conoco spokesman Carlton Adams meanwhile told AFP that over the three years the contract was negotiated, the company periodically informed the State Department of its status.

The agreement announced Monday in Tehran was the first of its kind between a U.S. oil company and Iran since 1980, when the United States broke off relations in the wake of the 1979 seizure of U.S. hostages.

"There's no requirement that Conoco receive a U.S. approval prior to entering into that type of agreement," said Mr. McCurry.

"But as a general thrust of our policy, which is designed to bring pressure to bear on Iran and get them to behave in the world community, this is not a helpful development," he said.

Washington has been pressing other nations not to sell Iran arms or equipment and technology with dual military-civilian use.

Russian arms sales and a nuclear cooperation pact between Moscow and Tehran in particular have drawn fire from Washington, which accuses Iran of seeking a nuclear weapons capability.

U.S. officials said that U.S. oil companies are not barred from buying oil from Iran provided it is not exported to the United States.

Indeed, U.S. oil companies buy several billion dollars in oil a year from Tehran and sell it in Asian and Europe.

But they acknowledged that the Conoco deal would give ammunition to countries resisting U.S. pressure on Iran.

"This agreement — at least what we know of it — does not appear to be illegal or prohibited under U.S. law at this time," State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said, echoing the White House.

"However, this kind of cooperation with Iran is inconsistent with our policy of bringing pressure on Iran, both politically and economically, to change its unacceptable behaviour. We believe that the U.S. oil companies are well aware of the long-standing U.S. policy toward Iran," she said.

Mr. McCurry and Ms. Shelly both said they knew of no contact between the administration and the company prior to the deal, but Ms. Shelly and State Department officials wanted to meet with Conoco in the next few days to discuss the deal.

Trading shrinks but prices improve at AFM

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amid signals described as confusing at best by investors, trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) shrank by almost half in February when compared with January, but share prices registered a one-per cent increase during the month, according to a market report and brokers.

The monthly report of the AFM said turnover during February was JD 16.3 million, down at 43.4 per cent from January's JD 28.8 million.

Brokers attributed the decline to several factors. These included a drop in liquidity in the market resulting from curbs imposed by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on commercial bank credits, the usual lethargy in the market associated with the fasting month of Ramadan and higher rates of interest offered by commercial banks.

The CBJ curbs on commercial bank credits were eased in February but too late to reflect on trading in the stock market, the brokers said.

"Perhaps in March we could see some improvement, but again the higher interest rates of deposits and shift of capital away to certificates of deposits issued by the CBJ could have a negative impact on the market," said one broker, who, like other AFM dealers, cannot be identified by name under standing market guidelines.

The AFM report said the general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at the end of February with a 1.6 point — or one per cent — gain.

Commercial bank stocks gained two per cent during

the month, services sector shares showed gains of 1.9 per cent and insurance stock posted an increase of 0.7 per cent. However, industrials dropped by 0.8 per cent.

The brokers said stocks should have gained better, given that the government clearly established in January that it was not planning to impose tax on capital gains and was proposing a more liberalised taxation structure. But the crunch on liquidity in the market depressed investor enthusiasm, they said.

The market report said 7.4 million shares were traded during February under 12,400 contracts; representing a drop respectively of 46.4 per cent and 33.3 per cent from January.

The average daily trading during February was

JD 800,000 (20 days of trading) compared with JD 1.3 million (23 days of trading) in January.

An average of 400,000 shares changed hands every day during February compared with 600,000 in January.

Industrial stock accounted for JD 7.7 million or 47.2 per cent of the monthly volume, followed by commercial banks with JD 4.9 million (30.1 per cent), the services sector with JD 3.5 million (21.5 per cent) and insurance stock with JD 200,000 (1.2 per cent).

The AFM report said 13,400 government development bonds were sold and bought during the month, fetching a total of JD 134,200 compared with 44,550 bonds and JD 445,400 in January.

UAE to focus on offset deals

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) growing arms market, has said it would concentrate on offset deals with its main arms suppliers to obtain technology and diversify its oil-reliant economy.

The armed forces chief-of-staff, Lieutenant General Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahayan, said the UAE would give priority to arms suppliers who are committed to setting up joint ventures with the Gulf OPEC producer.

"The offset programme is an important instrument to help us attain our national objectives. Those who are committed to cooperation with us in implementing such a programme and contributing to the development of this experience will find sincere and fruitful cooperation on our part," he said.

"The UAE is facing development and security challenges as it enters the 21st century. This makes it imperative for us to obtain technology so we will cope with this age where security and development have become closely linked," he added.

Under the UAE offset system, arms suppliers must set up joint projects which could yield up to 60 per cent of the deal's value in a specific period of time. The projects cover industry, agriculture, infrastructure and services.

Officials have said such deals would help the UAE acquire technology needed for building an industrial base

and lessening dependence on oil, which provides more than 80 per cent of its income.

Offset sources said the UAE would likely spend nearly \$1 billion a year in the next decade on defence purchases as it is pressing ahead with plans to bolster its army following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The UAE's biggest offset package was announced in 1993 with the French Giat Industries under a multi-billion-dollar deal to supply the Emirates with 436 Leclerc battle tanks, the delivery of which is to begin in 1995.

Giat has already opened offices in Abu Dhabi and its officials said last year they were studying around 30 projects involving the UAE private sector. They cover steel, mechanical, pharmaceutical and service industries.

At an international offset conference in Abu Dhabi last December, six separate projects were announced under offset deals with French and U.S. firms. They included ports, a technology institution, chemicals and printing.

The French air industries giant, Aerospatiale, also announced plans to set up a joint aircraft maintenance centre in Abu Dhabi with the Gulf Aircraft Maintenance Company, which is owned by Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE.

The U.S. bank Chase Manhattan has also disclosed plans to create a \$1 billion company with UAE businessmen

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Mar 7/1995	Tokyo Close Mar 8/1995
Sterling Pound	1.6395	1.6376**
Deutsche Mark	1.3730	1.3553
Swiss Franc	1.1405	1.1405**
French Franc	4.8955	4.8615**
Japanese Yen	96.40	89.30
European Currency Unit	1.3253	1.3350**

** For 100
* European Opening & Close are GMT

European Interest Rates Date: 8/3/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.06	6.12	6.75
Sterling Pound	6.25	6.50	6.87	7.31
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.81	5.00	5.37
Swiss Franc	3.43	3.67	3.81	4.12
French Franc	8.50	8.00	7.20	7.18
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.00	2.00	2.00
European Currency Unit	7.43	7.31	7.31	7.43

Interest rate for 100 units of currency

Previous Metals Date: 8/3/1995

Commodity	USD/oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/oz	JD/Gm
Gold	383.55	7.55	Silver	4.68	0.110

** For 100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 8/3/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6810	0.6820
Sterling Pound	1.1188	1.1244
Deutsche Mark	0.5038	0.5038
Swiss Franc	0.6059	0.6059
French Franc	0.1401	0.1408
Japanese Yen	0.7617	0.7655
Dutch Guilder	0.4445	0.4467
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0419	0.0421
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies Date: 8/3/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.3910	1.4030
Lebanese Lira	0.041725	0.042950
Saudi Riyal	0.1813	0.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3300	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1860	0.1871
Egyptian Pound	0.1150	0.2085
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	0.1845	0.1857
Greek Drachma	0.9675	0.5125
Cypriot Pound	1.4540	1.5530

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4102/12	Canadian dollar
	1.3666/76	Deutsche marks
	1.5330/40	Dutch guilders
	1.1390/00	Swiss francs
	28.29/33	Belgian francs
	4.8605/55	French francs
	1627.2/2.2	Italian lire
	89.57/67	Japanese yen
	7.1075/75	Swedish crowns
	6.1210/60	Norwegian crowns
	5.5370/20	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.6408/18	
One ounce of gold	\$383.50/383.80	

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Controversial goal puts Man. United back on top

LONDON (AP) — A controversial goal seven minutes from the end by centre back Steve Bruce sent defending titlist Manchester United to the top of the English Premier League standings Tuesday in a 1-0 victory at Wimbledon.

The win gives United the lead on goal difference from Blackburn which can restore its three-point lead by beating Arsenal Wednesday. The Reds gained that goal differential advantage by overwhelming lowly Ipswich 9-0 on Saturday.

It was United's first return to Selhurst Park since the infamous Eric Cantona incident Jan. 25 when his French striker leaped into the stands and kicked a Crystal Palace fan. Cantona, who faces criminal charges arising out of the incident, has been banned from game until October.

This game, too, exploded near the end. Wimbledon's Alan Kimble was sent off in the 80th minute for collecting his second yellow card, this time for failing to get back 10 yards (metres) from a corner,

and United threw five forwards plus defender Bruce up in attack to try and grab the winner.

It worked in the 83rd minute when Wimbledon's Dutch goalkeeper Hans Segers, failed to hold on to a through ball from Brian McClair and Bruce pounced to prod the ball home.

Wimbledon claimed he had kicked the ball out of Segers' hands and referee Robbie Hart ordered the Dons Manager, Joe Kinnear, off the bench and into the stands for his own loud, arm-waving protest.

Wimbledon, which stayed in 12th place in the 22-team standings, should have taken a sixth minute lead when Dean Holdsworth latched onto a wayward throw in from United defender Denis Irwin but shot across the face of the goal from close range.

In the 25th minute rescued his team with a one-handed, diving save to keep out a left-footed shot from Gary Neville.

Four minutes before half time, however, Marcus Gayle

got through the United defence but Danish keeper Peter Schmeichel raced off his line to block his first effort. Gayle got hold of the rebound but, with Schmeichel grounded, defender Gary Pallister got back to clear his follow-up shot off the line.

In the division one promotion race, Middlesbrough pulled level on points with leader Tranmere by beating Watford 2-0. Tranmere tumbled 2-0 at Sheffield United.

At Bramall Lane, Northern Ireland midfielder Kingsley Black fired the blades ahead against Tranmere.

Dane Whitehouse missed a chance to make it 2-0 just before half time when he shot wide from the penalty spot but Sheffield, which climbed to third, scored a second after the break through Nathan Blake.

Middlesbrough's Robbie Mustoe fired his team ahead after 32 minutes with a long-range drive against Watford and German striker Uwe Mustoe took a pass from Bolivian forward Jaime Moreno to hit the second.

America's Cup Kiwis keep Japan out of semifinals

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Japanese sailors will be looking over their shoulders during the final round-robin races, with the French battling them for the final berth in the America's Cup challenger semi-finals.

Nippon Challenge could have clinched a berth here Tuesday had it been able to stay ahead of Team New Zealand, which came from behind to win by 57 seconds while fifth-place France 3 was losing to TAG Heuer by 2 minutes 38 seconds.

Nippon Challenge ends the round-robin against an easier foe, Rioja de Espana, while France 3 races another also-ran, Sydney 95. The Japanese will advance with either a victory over Spain or a French loss to Sydney.

"It's not looking very likely now," France 3 coach Harold Cudmore said. "Today shows the deficit we have. TAG just took a little away from us on each leg. Unless something happens to Nippon, they should get through."

An older OneAustralia boat, refitted after AUS-35 sank Sunday, had no trouble in its resurrection race, beating Sydney 95 by 1:54.

The Australians, showing good humor after their disaster, wearing bright orange life jackets until the race began. Helmsman Rod Davis said it was a good race, not only for winning the first race back but because "we're not all wet."

OneAustralia skipper John Bertrand accepted a \$2 million check from Australia's MMI insurance company for the sunk AUS 35. He was pleased with the revamped older boat's debut.

"We went upwind in a competitive mode, and the boat worked pretty well,"

Bertrand said. "But the boat needs a bit of work before the semifinals."

Kevin Mahaney sailed PACT 95's Young America to a surprisingly easy victory over Dennis Conner's Stars and Stripes by 2:06 to clinch first place in the round-robin of the defender trials, thus earning two bonus wins to carry into the semifinals starting March 18.

"Nobody will remember who won the round-robins. They'll remember who won the America's Cup," Mahaney said.

In the critical race, Nippon helmsman John Cutler deftly forced Coutts to the right side at the start, then led the Kiwis around the first three marks by 22, 12 and 24 seconds — from two to four boat lengths.

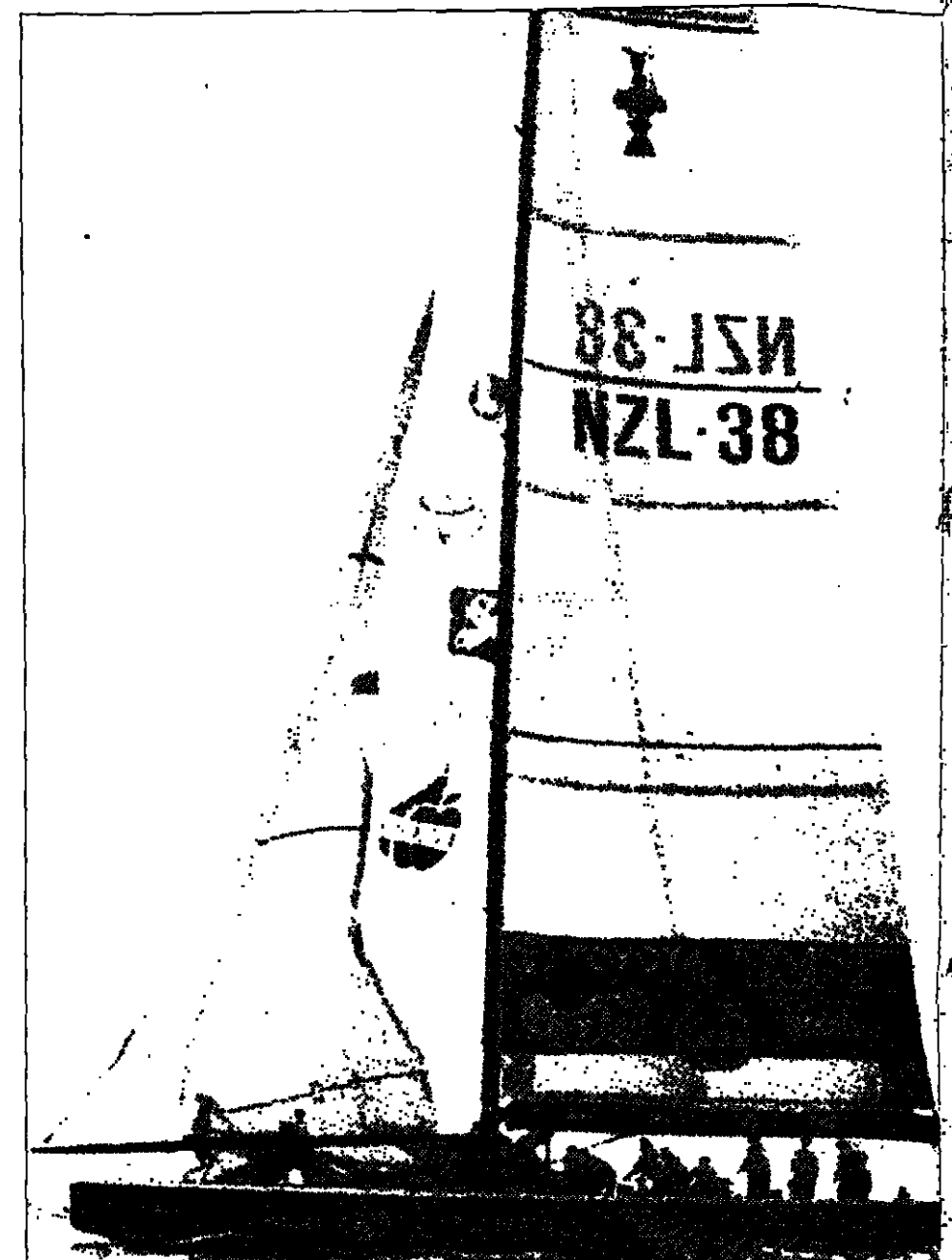
But at the second leeward mark, Coutts broke Nippon's inside overlap on his final gybe to round clear ahead by 12 seconds, held the margin through several converging attacks by Cutler and stretched out on the downwind finishing run.

"We always have an exciting race with Nippon," Black Magic tactician Brad Butterworth said.

Black Magic beat Nippon in all four of their contests but by conservative margins of 12 seconds, one minute, 1:34 and 57 seconds.

The Japanese briefly protested. They suspected the Kiwis sailed more than three races of the round with a coach, designer or other "technical" person riding as the 17th man, contrary to a new rule.

The rule was added earlier in this event to prevent Nippon from using coach Peter Gilmour as its regular 17th man, instead of the sponsor



The crew aboard Team New Zealand's Black Magic sets the spinnaker after rounding the first leeward mark in the America's Cup challenger race (AFP photo)

or celebrity rider for which the position was intended.

But Nippon withdrew the protest upon learning that one of the people in question was Godfrey Cray, a member of the syndicate who provides the crew with scores before every race.

"He is technically incompetent," Kiwi skipper Russell

Coutts said.

The French used their new "exotic" mainsail set away from the mast in winds of eight knots building to 10. But it didn't help. Cudmore said that changes the French made to their boat between rounds "were not the right way to go."

Stars and Stripes navigator Jim Brady said he is confident that his boat can gear up to speed with Young America and hold off the American women in the semifinals.

"Dennis has had the ability to do that in the past. We'll be there when it comes right down to it."

Czechs take aim at Russian pairs

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — For a change, the pairs gold medal at the World Figure Skating Championships may not be going to Russia.

Instead, the Russians, who have won 26 of the last 30 world pairs titles, may lose out to a couple of California-based Czechs. Ironically, there are coached by the great Russian pairs skater of them all.

Ten-time world champion Irina Rodnina, who has moved west to set up camp at Lake Arrowhead, California, took on Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotny two years ago and has brought them to the brink of the championship. She did it by taking advantage of the engaged couples' romantic feelings for each other.

Rodnina came up with the idea that the Kovarikova and Novotny play the roles of Romeo and Juliet before the judges. Skating to Tchaikovsky's composition of the same name, they won the short programme Tuesday and will have the classical look again when they skate to Verdi in Wednesday's medal-deciding free skate.

"Because we are close to each other, we can show it more in this programme," Kovarikova said of the Romeo and Juliet routine.

"It's like we make a story on ice. We had a finish where we were dying on the ice, but that's not allowed under the rules. It's a pity, but it's better to stand there and not to die, and not to have any marks dropped."

Instead of dying, the pair hugged at mid-ice after their routine to the cheers of the near-capacity crowd at the NEC Arena.

The classical theme used by today's top pairs — nearly all of the big-name couples here are romantically-linked and are skating programme

to match — has taken some getting used to for Rodnina, who was the epitome of power and strength while she was winning her titles with two different partners throughout the 1970s.

"My style was more speed and athletic," Rodnina said. "I never skated with classical music, and we never skated face-to-face."

In what was considered a wide-open competition going in, there was little to separate the top five pairs.

European champions and ex-lovers Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer of Germany were second performing to piano music a routine that defined the word flow. They placed first with two judges, and might have been first if Steuer had not struggled to hang on to a triple-loop.

Defending champions Yevgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov were third. Fellow Russians Marina Yel'tsova and Andrey Bushkov, the only top pair that's never been a couple off the ice, were fourth.

U.S. champions Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, who will marry in July, thrilled the crowd with their now-famous move out of a lift that leaves her head swinging inches from the ice.

Phoenix scored five of its next seven points from the foul line. With 4:49 to play, Barkley drove the final nail in the coffin by nailing a 3-pointer giving Phoenix a 102-94 lead.

Olajuwon shot 16-for-23 grabbed 13 rebounds before fouling out with 3:50 to play.

Houston has lost five straight for the first time since March 1992. "We are not panicking, we are just upset with the way we are playing," Olajuwon said.

Barkley finished with 26 points and 14 rebounds. Johnson had nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and dished out 11 assists for the first time in three tries this season.

"At times we've come to Houston and let them control the game inside and out," Johnson said. "We were de-

Suns beat Rockets despite Olajuwon's 40 points

HOUSTON (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon's 40 points weren't enough as the Phoenix Suns handed the Houston Rockets their fifth straight loss, 113-102 on Tuesday.

Charles Barkley's finish of an alley-oop pass from Kevin Johnson snapped an 88-88 tie with eight minutes to play and started a 9-0 run. Then Johnson tied up Olajuwon to force a jump ball, and the Houston centre appeared rattled by a technical foul called as he tried to wrestle the ball away.

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next seven points from the foul line. With 4:49 to play, Barkley drove the final nail in the coffin by nailing a 3-pointer giving Phoenix a 102-94 lead.

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"At times we've come to Houston and let them control the game inside and out," Johnson said. "We were de-

termined we were not going to let that happen. Hakeem gets so exhausted by the end of the game that we thought we could take advantage."

Phoenix's bench outscored Houston's 38-23.

In Sacramento, John Stockton scored 15 of his 28 points in a four-minute span bridging the fourth quarter and overtime as the Utah Jazz rallied to beat the reeling Kings 102-95.

Stockton scored Utah's last eight points of regulation as the Jazz erased an 89-82 deficit in the final 79 seconds of the fourth quarter.

Karl Malone scored 33 points to lead Utah.

Walt Williams scored 31 points for Sacramento, which has lost eight of its last nine games. The Kings now lead Denver by just 2½ games for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

In San Antonio, Rick Smith scored a season-high 35 points as the Indiana Pacers Rode a 16-point first-quarter lead to a 117-100 victory, snapping the Spurs' eight-game win streak.

Sean Elliott scored 28 points and David Robinson added 19 for the Spurs, who

hadn't lost at home in 11 games. Dennis Rodman scored a season-high 17 points but was held to 14 rebounds, the first time in eight games he has been under 20.

San Antonio fell 2½ games behind Utah in the Midwest Division.

In Dallas, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf hit a 3-pointer with 35 seconds left to highlight a 10-2 game-closing run and gave the Nuggets a 99-96 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 38 of his season-high 46 points in the second half to lead the Knicks to a 115-110 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Ewing, who also had 12 rebounds and six blocked shots, fell five points short of his career high, set against the Celtics in 1990. John Starks added 25 points for New York, which has won three straight and eight of its last 10.

Dino Radja scored 29 points for the Celtics, who have lost nine in a row to the Knicks. Forward Dominique Wilkins scored 19 points and became the ninth player in league history to reach 25,000 points.

In Cleveland, Tyrone Hill scored the Cavaliers' last 10 points as they held the Detroit Pistons scoreless for nearly eight minutes of the fourth quarter for an 89-81 victory.

Terry Mills got 26 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which has lost seven straight at Cleveland.

In Milwaukee, Terry Porter scored a season-high 36 points as the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Bucks 106-100.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 13 of his 23 points in the first quarter and the best never trailed in a 110-104 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Heat won despite suspending starting forward Kevin Willis for the game for failure to comply with his back rehabilitation program.

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Malaysia bans 80 players over match-fixing

QUALA LUMPUR (R) — Eighty players implicated in match-fixing by police have been barred from the Malaysian League this season, the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) announced Wednesday.

The names on the list handed over by the police to the FAM were not revealed, he national news agency Bernama said.

About 120 players — one-third of the league's work-

force — have been questioned about match-fixing in the inaugural season of the Malaysian League.

It is the biggest bribery investigation in the game's history.

The Singapore team, who won both the League Championship and the annual Malaysia Cup last year, have withdrawn from the league after the FAM publicly stated that it was considering expelling them.

FAM general-secretary Paul Momy Samuel said after an FAM council meeting that a further 46 players questioned by police could rejoin their teams as no evidence was found to implicate them.

Deputy home minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob announced last month that 22 players would be sent into international exile under the restricted residence act. Those banished to remote

areas of Malaysia must report to police daily and stay indoors from dusk to dawn.

The soccer bribery scandal in Malaysia and Singapore came to light when Singapore's anti-corruption officials arrested Czech striker Michael Vana and a Singaporean referee in August last year on charges of fixing six matches in the 16-team league.

Vana subsequently jumped bail and fled Prague.

Fernandez jumps 7 places in WTA rankings

MIAMI (Agencies) — Mary Joe Fernandez was just as happy the WTA waited until Tuesday to release their rankings this week.

The U.S. veteran beat Natasha Zvereva of Belarus in Monday's rain-delayed Evert Cup final at Indian Wells and completed a jump of seven places, to 12th from 19th, in ratings released here Monday.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario remained number one in the world and will keep the top spot next week no matter how number two Steffi Graf does at the Delray Beach Championship.

Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu advanced from 16th to 14th.

1. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Mary Pierce (France)
4. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
5. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
6. Lindsay Davenport (USA)
7. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
8. Natasha Zvereva (Belarus)
9. Kimiko Date (Japan)
10. Anke Huber (Germany)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)
13. Iva Majoli (Croatia)
14. Naoko Sawamatsu (Japan)
15. Brenda Scholtz (Netherlands)



Mary Joe Fernandez

Graf, who now is 5-0 in 1995, played confidently in the first set of the 65-minute, second-round match. She out-manoeuvred the 131st-ranked Sanchez Lorenzo with ease in the 25 minute first set. Graf won 27 of the 40 points played in the opening set, losing six points on her own serve and seven points on Sanchez Lorenzo's serve.

But Sanchez Lorenzo, a rare player who hits two-handed shots from both sides, calmed and gave Graf a fight in the second set.

Huber needed only 63 minutes to dispose of the 78th-ranked Bobkova and take a 2-0 career edge over the Czech native.

Bobkova was ahead 4-2 in the first set, but Huber won the next seven games for a 6-4, 3-0 lead.

Six of the nine games in the second set were service breaks. Huber led Bobkova come back to 4-3 in the last set before winning the final two games of the match.

Courier ponders Davis Cup

Jim Courier remains undecided about playing for a lackluster U.S. Davis Cup team set to visit Italy for a second-round match on clay that starts March 31.

Courier spoke Tuesday after ousting Germany's Mar-

kus Zoccke in the first round of the ATP Champions Cup here.

World number one Pete Sampras, his close pursuer Andre Agassi and world number four Michael Chang do not plan to play for the U.S. squad. Todd Martin is unlikely and Courier feels put in a bind.

"It's a real schedule problem for us," Courier said. "Pete is going to play (ATP events in) Europe. Todd is going to be staying in America. Andre, Michael and myself will be going to Asia to play on hardcourts. It's difficult for all of us."

Courier was among the U.S. players who ousted France in a first-round match last month in Florida. But that meant flying back from Australia in a rush, then hurrying to play on the U.S. West Coast.

That was a lot for a man who began the year fifth among Americans and never expected to get the Davis Cup call. In fact, Courier blames his Davis Cup loyalty in 1994 for his reduced ranking in 1995.

"I figured it needed to be done, so I went and played the first one," Courier said. "This is the kind of thing that got me in trouble last year, playing too much. That's what took my fire away. I don't want to re-live that if I

can avoid it."

Courier wants the ATP and International Tennis Federation to arrange a better schedule for Davis Cup play, so top stars are not forced to decide between patriotism and personal health.

"You can't expect a top player to travel across a continent and change surfaces in four days," Courier said. "A top player will be going on fumes."

In other matches Tuesday, two-time 1995 champion Thomas Enqvist of Sweden beat Australia's Mark Woodforde 6-3, 6-4, while Guy Forget won a battle of Frenchmen over Olivier Delatre 6-7 (12/10), 6-1, 7-5.

Stich threatens to quit Davis Cup team

Michael Stich, in a renewed feud with the German Tennis Federation over money and Boris Becker, has threatened to quit Germany's Davis Cup team, a newspaper said Tuesday.

Germany has a tough road trip coming up when it meets the Netherlands in the Davis Cup quarterfinals last weekend in March.

In a letter to the federation (DTB), Stich's manager accused the body of not sticking to the terms of its contract with Stich and that Stich "had no more reason to hold his word," the Sport-Build weekly newspaper reported.

The newspaper said Stich's manager, Ralf Scheitberger, indicated that Stich may quit the team before the encounter against the Netherlands in Utrecht.

Jens-Peter Hecht, DTB spokesman, confirmed that the federation had received the manager's letter but declined to reveal its contents.

However, he said DTB general secretary Guenter Sanders would talk with Stich this week during the tournament in Indian Wells.

Stich and Becker have feuded before over terms of playing Davis Cup for Germany.

Becker, Germany's No. 1, returned to the team this year and helped Germany beat Croatia in the first round of the Davis Cup.

He signed a contract with DTB reportedly paying him 2.6 million marks (\$1.85 million) annually to play Davis Cup.

Asian U-18 Basketball Championship

Jordan defeats Japan to move into semifinals

By Omar Bashtawi in Manila and Aileen Bannayan in Amman

JORDAN'S U-18 basketball team Wednesday delighted the Kingdom's sports fans when they scored a crucial 73-56 win over Japan and moved to the semi-finals of the Asian championship currently underway in Manila.

The newly regrouped team will definitely go down in the country's sports archives as the first Jordanian team to qualify to the semi-finals of an Asian championship.

Jordan joined title-holders China, South Korea and a still undecided fourth team in the final round where they will have a chance to qualify to the world championship which will be held in Greece. The top three Asian teams will be eligible to participate.

Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) officials were ecstatic over the team's results as the relatively inexperienced team who were only regrouped two months ago are playing their first international tournament.

JBF President Awad Haddad said this "was the beginning of Jordanian basketball's strong comeback to Arab and Asian basketball." Vice-President Samir Janakat could not hide his enthusiasm and said his "expectations about this team had come true."

Jordan is now likely to face South Korea in the semi-final. A win will move them to the final in which they would probably meet



Jordan's U-18 team — into the Asian semifinals

title holders China who are eyeing their fifth title.

However that would not be an easy task to perform, as the South Koreans are not an easy team and defeated Jordan 75-61 in the first round.

The only Arab team in the 15-nation competition, the Jordanian team has so far scored impressive results. After thrashing Hong Kong 71-24 and defeating Singapore 88-35 in the first round, they scored a spectacular 72-71 win over hosts the Philippines before losing to China 88-49.

Wednesday's win over Japan enabled Jordan to finish second in their group behind China who eliminated the Philippines 85-67.

Playmaker Fadi Al Saqqa led his team to an early 22-8 lead as team-mates Zeid Alkhas and Ma'an Odeh scored and secured both defensive and offensive rebounding as Jordan won the first half 30-11.

The Japanese relied on shooting from the three-point range as they were unable to penetrate Jordan's well-knit defence.

The Jordanian team, playing their sixth consecutive match, played to win and had high scoring percentages.

The top scorers were: Zeid Alkhas and Ma'an Odeh 13, Fadi Al Saqqa 12 and Ihab Msib 12.

In a post-match state-

ment, head coach Murad Barakat said: "We had planned for this win. We had studied the Japanese team well, and put an end to their ambitions early in the match by employing a strategy of killing their fast attacking play. God willing, we will do as well in the semi-final."

In other quarterfinal matches Tuesday, South Korea beat Indonesia 86-37, the Philippines defeated Japan 98-75, Thailand beat Taiwan 67-66.

In matches deciding 9-15th places Kazakhstan crushed Brunei 110-44, Hong Kong overcame Macao 56-46 and India defeated Malaysia 102-67.

McClellan out of coma

LONDON (R) — American boxer Gerald McClellan has regained consciousness for the first time since being critically injured in a world title fight on Feb. 25, neurosurgeon John Sutcliffe said Wednesday.

McClellan, 27, collapsed in the ring shortly after being counted out in the 10th round of a brutal contest for Briton Nigel Benn's World Boxing Council (WBC) super-middleweight title at the London Arena.

McClellan was opening his eyes and moving his arms and fingers after being taken off sedation Sutcliffe said.

"He is slowly but steadily improving — his responses are getting better as the drugs are wearing off."

Indian Festival

The Indian community living in Jordan will celebrate the festivals of Eid Al Fitr and Holi (the festival of colours) on Friday, March 10, at the premises of the Embassy of the Republic of India. The event, which will include a traditional Indian meal, will start at 11:30 a.m.

All Indians and family members are welcome

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THE PESSIMISTS PROGRESS

North-South vulnerable, North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K 5 5
 ♥ K 5 2
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ A K J 6 3
EAST
 ♠ Q J 10 7
 ♥ A 8 6 3
 ♦ K 5 3 2
 ♣ 10 9 7 4
SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 7 6 2
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ A J 10 4
 ♣ Q 6

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Life might not be a rose garden if you are a born pessimist, but a ca-

reer in bridge could be. The winning players are those who prepare for the worst.

North could have shown a maximum one-no-trump opening bid with a good fit by cue-bidding over South's jump. When North did not, South decided that four spades was high enough.

West led the queen of hearts, ducked in dummy. When the jack was continued, declarer again played low from the table, then ruffed the third round of the suit. All seemed easy sailing until declarer cashed the ace and king of spades and shifted to diamonds. As the finesse is now too late, declarer simply rises with the ace, draws the last trump with the king and takes two more diamond shifts on the good clubs. Making four-odd.

ness — down one. The only consolation was that the other line also would have failed.

This is a situation that occurs with great frequency, yet is misunderstood more often than not. All declarer need do is test trumps by playing off the two high honors in the closed hand. If both defenders follow, declarer draws the last trump and cashes out the clubs for an overtrick. If one defender shows out, declarer abandons trumps and starts running clubs.

As the cards lie, the best defense is for East to ruff the third club as declarer discards a diamond, and shift to diamonds. As the finesse is now too late, declarer simply rises with the ace, draws the last trump with the king and takes two more diamond shifts on the good clubs. Making four-odd.

Visa of short duration for the SCHENGEN-countries

Belgium - Netherlands - Luxemburg - France - Germany - Portugal - Spain

1. Effective 26th. March 1995, Jordanian nationals who apply for an entry visa to one of the above mentioned countries for a short stay (a period not exceeding ninety days), will obtain a visa, valid for the whole Schengen area. The total duration of a stay, or of several stays, is limited to three months per semester in the above mentioned Schengen area. (Italy and Greece will join the Schengen convention procedure later).

Belgium — Netherlands — Luxemburg Belgian Embassy: Tel: 675683
 France French Embassy: Tel: 641273
 Germany German Embassy: Tel: 689351
 Spain — Portugal Spanish Embassy: Tel: 614165

2. The Schengen agreement signifies real progress with regard to the free circulation of persons. Of course, a foreigner with a valid residence permit, issued by one of the Schengen-countries, will be authorised to leave and to re-enter the Schengen area without having to apply for a new visa, on condition however that he possesses, besides the afore-mentioned residence permit, a valid national travel document (passport). Likewise, a foreigner in possession of a valid residence permit, issued by one of the Schengen-countries, together with a valid travel document, may stay for a maximum duration of three months per semester in all the other Schengen countries, without a prior visa request from these countries.

3. The visa application has to be addressed to the competent consular service in the following manner:

- a. If the applicant wishes to travel to one country only, he will have to apply for the visa from the authorities of that specific country.
 - b. If the applicant intends to visit several countries, he has to apply to the authorities of the country of his main destination, mentioning the purpose of his visit.
 - c. If the main destination cannot be determined, the competent Schengen-country to issue the visa, will be the one first entered by the traveller.
4. The application for a visa does not automatically guarantee a favourable response. The purpose of the voyage cannot, in principle, be modified afterwards.
5. The documents required for obtaining a visa are the same as before. Further documents might be required in specific cases.
6. A visa for a long duration remains subject to the national regulations of the country of destination. Such a visa has to be applied for through the consular authorities of the concerned country. A visa required for the French Overseas Departments and Territories has to be applied for at the competent French consular representation.
7. A visa that has been issued by one of the Schengen-countries before the 26th. March 1995, remains valid until its expiry date, only within the country of its issuance.

Kankkunen leads Portugal Rally

IGUERO DA FOZ, Portugal (R) — Finland's Juha Kankkunen restored Toyota's fortunes Wednesday with a flying start to the rally of Portugal, the third round of this year's world lying championships.

After five stages Kankkunen was 12 seconds clear of Carlos Sainz of Spain in a Subaru Impreza. He was one second ahead of Frenchman Didier Auriol's Toyota Celica.

"The car is much better. I'm a bit surprised to be leading," said the 35-year-old four times world champion, who won the rally last year. New rules limiting engine power have hit world champion Toyota hard this year and the team was out of the running on the first two rounds of the series.

However, Kankkunen was fastest on four of the first five stages to open up a narrow lead over Sainz and Auriol. Sainz and his British team led by Colin McRae are continuing bitterly of a lack of power on the much fancied

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The Modern Montessori School invites applicants for teaching positions for grades 1-7 for the scholastic year 1995-96. Applicants should have one of the following qualifications:
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 Science (both languages)
 Social Science (both languages)
 Mathematics (both languages)
 Music

A minimum of two years experience is required.
 ★ Applications should be submitted before Thursday March 16th, 1995.

★ Applicants are required to submit a detailed CV along with the application.

★ Applicants will be received daily (except Fridays) between 3-6 p.m. in the school premises in Khaldi, opposite King Hussein Medical Centre, Tel. No. 865831.

Jordan hopes Copenhagen summit helps fight poverty, unemployment

COPENHAGEN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Wednesday expressed hope that the U.N. summit on world development currently convened in the Danish capital would contribute to human development and help efforts aimed at fighting poverty and unemployment around the world.

In separate interviews with Radio Jordan and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Princess Basma said the summit would help high-level major problems impeding sustainable development. She identified these problems as poverty and unemployment.

Princess Basma called for finding mechanisms for regional and international cooperation to fight these problems and put an end to the suffering of millions of people.

Nevertheless, the Princess said, people should not expect immediate results from the conference.

Voicing pride in achievements by Arab women, the Princess also called for exerting more efforts to enable women to play a more active role in their societies in a manner conforming to Arab norms and traditions.

Princess Basma also expressed appreciation of Jordanian women and their achievements over the past

years in various fields. She said Jordan's participation in the summit was a good chance for it to get familiarised with the other nations' experience in development fields.

She reviewed progress achieved by Jordanian women and the national strategy on women, which, she said, expresses the aspirations of Jordanian women and defines means to enhance their role and participation in public life.

Princess Basma said her meeting Tuesday with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali was a good chance to discuss the role of U.N. ambassadors for human resources, saying she was proud to be one of them.

Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen Al-Masri, who is heading the Jordanian delegation to the summit, said Jordan considers people as the essence and main target of its comprehensive development programmes.

Ms. Damen-Masri said Jordan had been preparing plans to enhance the role of women in the development process through intensified efforts in the fields of education, mother and child care, family planning and politics.

These efforts, she said, were crowned by the formation of a national committee

on women's affairs in 1992 and when the first strategy on women was adopted in 1993.

Noting that people in the Middle East region have suffered of the low standards and upheavals of the economic and social development processes over decades because of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Ms. Damen-Masri underlined that it was time to pool efforts at national, regional and international level to have a qualitative shift in these people's lives.

She said she was hopeful of the summit, "which raises concepts that should be implemented on the ground through the collaboration of efforts of the international community."

Jordan, she said, has made the human element the essence, axis and target of the comprehensive development process based on its Arab and Islamic heritage, constitution and laws. She added that the Kingdom had given, during the past five decades, a good example on development in spite of limited resources and capabilities and was able to absorb shocks resulting from three mass migrations — in 1948, 1967 and 1990 — and managing to merge the migrants in the society and make them participate in its various activities without affecting their

rights.

She stressed that the Jordanian society was characterised by cooperation and tolerance, underlining that ethnic groups live in harmony in the Kingdom, which has opened the way for all its citizens to participate in the decision-making process at various levels under a democratic constitutional system based on pluralism.

The minister said the Kingdom had suffered major economic upheavals by the end of the 1980s caused by factors out of its control. This prompted Jordan to adopt an economic reform programme, which started to give fruits until the Gulf war, when thousands of its nationals were forced to leave Gulf countries and come home and when hundreds of thousands of evacuees from various countries escaped from the Gulf region through Jordan, thus adding to its burdens.

"She added that Jordan was aware of the repercussions of these problems and it managed through international assistance to stand up to the challenges and to increase economic growth and continued its attempts to have a qualitative move in the field of industrial development through the establishment of various institutions.

True peace is when disparities among people are gone — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday comprehensive, permanent and just peace can only be achieved when disparities among people are eliminated.

"We'll build the country that will be an example for everyone in this region where all share the responsibility and work together. At that time, when differences among people are gone, I believe there would be a chance for a just, comprehensive and permanent peace," King Hussein said in an address to the First Armoured Battalion of the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division.

"We are heading for a



phase of reconstruction of the army," he said. "I know that the tanks you have are old but, God willing, the army will always be

the vanguard." The armoured division celebrated its 44th anniversary on Feb. 15. The division had only one company at the time of the Arabisation of the Jordanian army in 1957.

"This division has an honourable history," the King said. "It has always performed a perfect job in all battles. Our responsibilities are defending our country and defending peace."

King Hussein was accompanied by Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff General Abdul Hafez Miral.

Advertising charges, newspaper prices to go up on April 1

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A more than 100 per cent increase in the cost of newspaper in the last eight months has prompted newspaper publishers in Jordan to increase advertising charges and prices of newspapers with effect from April 1, publishers said Wednesday.

They said advertising charges will go up by 25 per cent and all the three Arabic-language papers and the Jordan Times will be sold at 200 fils each.

Mohammad Al Amad, director-general of the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited, which publishes Al Rai' and the Jordan Times, said the decision was taken in coordination with the publishers of Al Dustour and Al Aswaq, Jordan's two other Arabic-language dailies.

"We have no choice but to raise the advertising charges and newspaper prices since the price of newsprint increased by more than 110 per cent since May 1994," Mr. Amad told the Jordan Times.

"By all counts, newspaper prices are expected to continue to rise until 1997, according to industry sources," Mr. Amad added.

A tonne of newsprint cost \$450 in May 1994. In December the price was around \$750. "Offers that we re-

ceived in response to our latest tender range between \$1,000 and \$1,170," Mr. Amad said.

A rough estimate showed that the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited faced a "total wiping out of all profits in 1995 without the increase," Mr. Amad said.

The company, whose Al Rai' is the largest-circulation newspaper in the country, consumes about 7,000 tonnes of newsprint a year. The rise of about \$500 per tonne would mean an extra burden of \$3.5 million to the company every year, Mr. Amad noted.

Furthermore, he said, is the parallel rise in the amount of newsprint tax that the company pays to the government. The tax is levied at 25 per cent of the landed cost of the newsprint.

"When we put the rise in newsprint costs and the tax, we find that we stand to lose around \$4 million every year," said Mr. Amad. "This would more than completely wipe out our profits."

Seif Al Sharif, director-general of the Jordan Press and Publication Company — publishers of Al Dustour — called on the government to remove the tax and all other duties and fees on newsprint.

"Jordan is about the only country in the world to charge duties and fees on newsprint," Mr. Sharif told the Jordan Times, adding

that in many countries the governments actually subsidised newsprint.

Mr. Sharif said the Jordan Press and Publication Company Limited, whose Al Dustour is the second-largest daily in Jordan, pays an average of JD312,000 a year as newsprint tax to the government. The company consumes between 5,000 and 6,000 tonnes of newsprint every year.

"This represents about 30 per cent of our net profits," he said. "That is, not counting income tax and other fees and charges."

"The Jordanian government should remove all taxes and fees from newsprint like all other governments in the world," said Mr. Sharif.

Al Aswaq, a relative newcomer to Jordan's media industry but which is picking up fast in terms of readership and popularity, is printed at the facilities of the now-defunct Sawt Al Shaab daily. Its requirement of newsprint is estimated at slightly less than that of Al Dustour.

Mr. Amad said the Ministry of Finance was proposing a "quota system" under which part of the newspaper establishments' needs of newsprint will be exempt from the tax.

"But this will not solve the root problem," said Mr. Amad, noting that the international trend in prices of

(Continued on page 7)

Talibans launch assault on Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — The Islamic Taliban forces launched their first offensive against troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani Wednesday, with an attack on the southwest of the capital Kabul.

The Taliban took up several positions that were held by Shiite Wahadat fighters, who had been engaged in fierce fighting for three days with Rabbani troops.

The Wahadat fighters had voluntarily given up their arms and positions in the southwest of the capital to the Taliban, who are led by Islamic students, said the Islamic Press Agency, the mouthpiece for mujahadeen in Peshawar, Pakistan.

From these positions, Taliban launched a ground offensive using tanks against the presidential forces.

The offensive ended and calm descended on Kabul by late afternoon.

A presidential spokesman said some 20 Taliban had been killed and 26 were captured, along with a tank. This could not immediately be confirmed.

The spokesman said the Wahadat had surrendered to the Taliban to "avert their imminent defeat."

The three days of fighting between the Wahadat and Rabbani troops left some 900 wounded and dozens dead.

It was not clear what part if any the Wahadat played in the latest round of fighting.

The Taliban's action followed a threat by Wahadat leader Abdul Ali Mazani Tuesday that Wahadat would launch medium-range Scud missiles against government forces if they did not halt the assault they started on Monday on its enclave in southwestern Kabul.

Wahadat forces fired rockets into Kabul on Tuesday, killing more than 30 people and wounding 90, according to official Kabul Radio.

Of the 30 killed by rocketing, 25 had died in the same place, a Kabul Radio broadcast said Tuesday night.

Mr. Mazari told Reuters on Tuesday he had sent a message to his ally, northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, asking for help in using the medium-range Scud rockets.

"We have 20 Scuds and three launchers, and today I sent a message to General Dostum asking for technicians to come and help me set the rockets up," he said at his headquarters at Kabul's Karte Seh district, which was under attack.

"I will use the Scuds if I have to. We have decided to defend ourselves to the last man and to the last drop of blood," Mr. Mazari said in the interview, during which government jets and artillery bombarded the area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian population hits two million

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of Palestinians on the West Bank, Gaza Strip and in Jerusalem reached 1.993 million at the end of 1993, Israel's central bureau of statistics said Wednesday. The breakdown was 1,084 million in the occupied West Bank, 748,000 in Gaza and 160,700 in East Jerusalem. The increase represented four per cent over 1992. However, the Palestinian Authority estimated that 2.24 million Palestinians were living in the areas in mid-1994. Another 300,000 Palestinians had resident permits but were abroad. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered a survey of the Palestinian population last year and was told there were about 2.4 million.

Tunisia delays launch of ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Tunisia has decided to put off the opening of diplomatic relations with Israel, a foreign minister spokesman said Wednesday. The two countries announced last October that they had agreed to set up interest sections, the lowest level of ties, in Belgian diplomatic missions in Tunis and Tel Aviv. However, no date was fixed. "The Tunisians have asked our chief of mission not to go to Tunis for the moment," spokesman Yigal Palmor told AFP. "And the Tunisian technical delegation expected in Tel Aviv last month to prepare to open the section did not arrive. The Tunisians have asked to wait a while, but they did not say why or until when. We don't really know what is going on."

Syria builds sand wall on Iraq border

CAIRO (AFP) — Syria has built a wall of sand on its border with Iraq to prevent smuggling between the two countries, a Saudi daily said Wednesday. Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told a senior Arab official that a sand barrier had been built "along the length of the border region which was used a lot by smugglers in recent years," Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper said. The paper, quoting informed Arab sources, said Mr. Aziz also denied reports of an improvement in relations between Baghdad and Damascus.

Israel to get third German submarine

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Germany has agreed terms to build a third Dolphin class submarine for the Israeli navy, the defence ministry announced Wednesday. The deal follows Bonn's gift of two of the 1,925-tonne vessels after the 1991 Gulf war, which are due for delivery in 1997. The ministry would not reveal the financing deal for the third submarine, but according to Israeli press reports they cost \$320 million each.

Jewess, child found wandering in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian Authority has handed back to Israel an orthodox Jewish woman found wandering through the heart of Gaza City with a four-year-old child, a minister said. "A policeman found them on Palestine Square, he couldn't believe it," Justice Minister Freih Abu Mideen said. "She was dressed as an orthodox Jew and clearly distraught." The woman refused to speak and was taken to a hospital where the child was treated for a high fever. "I was called in when she would not talk, but we found out nothing even though I tried in English, French and Hebrew as well as Arabic," Abu Mideen said. "We don't know her name, where she is from or how she got here." He finally escorted her back to the Erez crossing point and handed her over to Israeli police on Tuesday evening.

Kuwait seeks crackdown on gatherings

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in remarks published on Wednesday he had ordered a crackdown on what he called political meetings that harmed security and relations with other Arab states. "I have asked the interior minister (Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah) to implement the law which bans unlicensed gatherings," the English-language Arab Times quoted Sheikh Saad as telling editors of local newspapers. "These activities are contrary to the people's desire for stability and tranquillity, especially after the bitter lesson of the (Iraqi) invasion," he was quoted as saying.

Israelis expelled from Zaire to Congo

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — About 10 Israelis expelled from Zaire as part of a crackdown against foreign traders have arrived with their families in neighbouring Congo, a diplomatic source said Wednesday. The Israelis have been staying in two large hotels in the Congolese capital Brazzaville since the weekend, at their own expense. Some are hoping the Zairean government will relent and allow them to return but others are planning to settle in Brazzaville, which lies on the opposite bank of the Zaire River from the Zairean capital Kinshasa, the source said.

Clashes reported in north Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — An Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla group said on Wednesday it had clashed with government troops massing against Kurdish territory in northern Iraq.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said Iraqi helicopter gunships attacked Kurdish positions on Tuesday near Chem Chamal, a town about 30 kilometres east of the city of Kirkuk.

The PUK said in a statement it and another opposition group had defeated an artillery regiment of the Iraqi army's 38th division north-west of the main Kurdish city Erbil on Monday.

Joint PUK and Iraqi National Congress (INC) forces captured eight artillery pieces in the clash which came after persistent Iraqi shelling of Kurdish positions, the PUK statement said.

Iraq has charged the PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, with attacking government troops in northern Iraq last weekend.

The PUK statement quoted Mr. Talabani as having told United Nations officials in northern Iraq that the Baghdad government had deployed three army corps close to Kurdish-held areas, including four Republican Guard divisions, 25 tank units, two mechanised divisions and 27 infantry brigades.

Many of Iraq's Kurds are protected from Iraqi attack by a U.S.-led air force which enforces a "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq from a base in southern Turkey.

Most of the reported clashes have taken place in Kurdish-held areas outside the safe-haven declared by the western allies after the Gulf war.

In Salahuddin, Kurdish officials said at least 10 Kurdish fighters have been killed and 30 other people injured in the clashes.

The 30 injured in fighting since Saturday included civilians, said Faraydun Abdul Kader of the PUK.

He said 40 Iraqi troops were captured and would be handed over to the INC.

The PUK, INC and smaller Kurdish factions have attacked Iraqi government troops with the avowed aim of triggering a country-wide revolt against the government.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), a rival of the PUK and which stood back from the clashes, said at least 13 Kurdish militiamen were killed.

Iraq confirmed fighting with the PUK on Sunday night. It said its army drove back a PUK attack, causing several casualties among the Kurds.

But Baghdad denies opposition reports that it has been massing troops on the edge of the safe haven and shelling Kurdish towns.

The Turkish Daily News reported Wednesday feuding Kurdish leaders Massud Barzani and Talabani are still at loggerheads over customs revenues from trade on the border with Turkey.

Russians halt fire on Chechen villages

SAMASHKI, Russia (Agencies) — A Russian commander and local Chechen authorities struck a deal on Wednesday to end shelling of villages resisting the Kremlin's bid to crush separatists.

Isa Magomedov, deputy head of administration in the village of Achkhoy Martan, told Reuters the agreement aimed to avert further Russian shelling of settlements in Chechnya's western Achkhoy Martan district.

Heavy-weapon attacks against Achkhoy Martan and surrounding villages will cease under the agreement reached between General Yuri Kosolapov and the district Chechen leader Salamu Umarlatov, the Interfax news agency said.

The ceasefire was to take hold "from today," Mr. Umarlatov said after the truce talks, held in Samashki, just north of Achkhoy Martan.

But Mr. Umarlatov added that given the continuous failure of previous Russian ceasefires, he did not consider Wednesday's agreement "effective and operational."

Attacks on the village of Samashki have already ended because the local leaders assured the Russians that their village would no longer resist, Interfax reported.

However, nearby Bamut was under fire Wednesday and the thunder of heavy guns was clearly audible throughout the truce talks, Interfax reported.

Russian heavy guns lined up a couple of kilometres outside Achkhoy Martan shelled the refugee-packed town relentlessly Sunday and Monday. Samashki was also shelled and Bamut has been attacked almost daily for weeks.

The war began Dec. 11 when thousands of Russian troops were sent to topple Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who declared his mostly Muslim republic independent from Russia in 1991.

The offensive on Achkhoy Martan has isolated the neighbouring villages of

Samashki and Bamut, each about 10 kilometres away. It has also cut off the last road to Nazran, capital of the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia, that was heavily used by refugees fleeing the three-month assault.

Russian forces have also mined the main east-west Chechen road, that runs through the Achkhoy Martan district.

One of the mines, which were dropped by planes, killed 10 refugees and injured five others in a single bus near Achkhoy Martan on Monday.

A Russian official told Interfax that the mines aimed to "stop all major movement by illegal armed gangs (official Russian parlance for the Chechen rebels) on the Grozny-Nazran road."

Planes have also mined woods south of Samashki, where separatist fighters have taken cover, according to the official, who was not named.

The foreign ministers of European Union "troika" countries — France, Germany and Spain — are to travel to Moscow Thursday to press Russian President Boris Yeltsin to seek a political solution to the war in Chechnya.

France's Alain Juppe, Germany's Klaus Kinkel and Javier Solana of Spain will also reiterate the European Union's continuing dissatisfaction with Russia's handling of the crisis in the republic, EU and French officials said.

They will be received by Mr. Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev during the visit. France currently holds the presidency of the 15-member union.

In particular the troika ministers will relay demands by the European Commission and the European Parliament linking a ceasefire and political solution in Chechnya to the implementation of an EU-Russian economic accord.

The accord was signed by Mr. Yeltsin at an EU summit on the Greek island of Corfu last June.

Informant says sheikh asked him to murder Mubarak

NEW YORK (AP) — A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informant admitted to a litany of lies as he testified that Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman asked him to kill Egypt's president because he was "the loyal dog of the Americans."

Enad Salem, a former Egyptian army major who began testifying Tuesday, is one of the government's star witnesses against Sheikh Abdul Rahman and 10 others. They are charged with plotting an extremist spree that was to include assassinating Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and bombing numerous New York City landmarks.

The trial is the second stemming from the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Centre, which prosecutors say was part of the conspiracy. Six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in that explosion.

Mr. Salem, who infiltrated the alleged group and secretly taped many of their conversations, testified that he met Sheikh Abdul Rahman in late 1991 during a van ride to Detroit, where the sheikh was to speak.

The Egyptian sheikh criticised him for spending 18 years in the military, Mr. Salem testified, and urged him to "make up with God."

By turning your rifle's barrel to President Mubarak's chest and kill him."

Sheikh Abdul Rahman called Mr. Mubarak "the loyal dog of the Americans" and said, "he is like a tail of the snake, he and Israel, they are following the United States," Mr. Salem testified.

The defence is poised to grill Mr. Salem about his checkered past, including numerous lies that he admits telling.

Seeking to blunt the impact of the defence questioning,

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COLUMN

Bangladesh police save 15 women from traffickers

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh police said Wednesday they rescued 15 women and children from traffickers trying to smuggle them into India. The group, each of whom paid 10,000 taka (\$250) on the promise of finding a job, was intercepted in southeastern town of Comilla, near the Indian border. One trafficker was arrested, the police said. Arrested trafficker Amir Hossain told police he and three companions collected women and children from poor families to take them across the border. They sold them to human traders on the Indian side and did not know what happened to them afterwards. Trafficking continues to be a lucrative business, despite efforts by police and border guards to stop it, a police officer said. Police say at least 15,000 Bangladesh women and children are smuggled across the border every year. Most never come back. The women usually end up in brothels in India and several other countries, including the Middle East, while the children become slaves, jockeys in camel racing or join crime gangs. The Bangladesh Observer Tuesday quoted Manpower Ministry officials as saying at least 10,000 Bangladeshis were in jails in India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and other countries after they travelled there with fake documents.

The Jordanian government should remove all taxes and fees from newsprint like all other governments in the world," said Mr. Sharif.

Al Aswaq, a relative newcomer to Jordan's media industry but which is picking up fast in terms of readership and popularity, is printed at the facilities of the now-defunct Sawt Al Shaab daily. Its requirement of newsprint is estimated at slightly less than that of Al Dustour.

Mr. Amad said the Ministry of Finance was proposing a "quota system" under which part of the newspaper establishments' needs of newsprint will be exempt from the tax.

"But this will not solve the root problem," said Mr. Amad, noting that the international trend in prices of

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